2 cargo ships collide in Cebu; 1 dead, 2 missing

STORY ON PAGE A2

Aid rushed to folk displaced by floods

DISASTER response teams rushed relief operations yesterday to tens of thousands of people displaced by floods spawned by typhoons and monsoon rains, officials said.

Two weeks of monsoon rains are expected to continue, especially in parts of Luzon and the Visayas as Typhoon "Inday" heads for northwest

AID/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Aides leave Gloria to save dying girl

By Volt Contreras

A 2-YEAR-OLD Muslim girl who has a 9-month-old brother named Osama is alive today, thanks to three social welfare officials who didn't think twice about missing a rendezvous with the President in Barangay Tatalon,

AIDES/A16

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, July 16, 2002 ★ 46 pages 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 218 P15
website: www.inq7.net

GMA to allies: No deal with Estrada boys

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has assured the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II that "Estrada henchmen" had no place in her administration, according to the umbrella alliance of groups that played a major role in installing her in power.

Kompil said the President made the assurance at a dialogue with 11 convenors in Malacañang yesterday morning. But there is disagreement among them as to which loyalist of ousted President Joseph Estrada was

GMA/A16

Saycon says sorry to those he offended

BOY SAYCON (second from right), Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, housing czar Michael Defensor and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman pray for unity at the Edsa Shrine. JOAN BONDOC

By Armand N. Nocum and Norman Bordadora

BREAKING off from his head-to-head confrontation with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Pastor "Boy" Saycon said: "To those that I have offended, I am sorry. I have to humble myself."

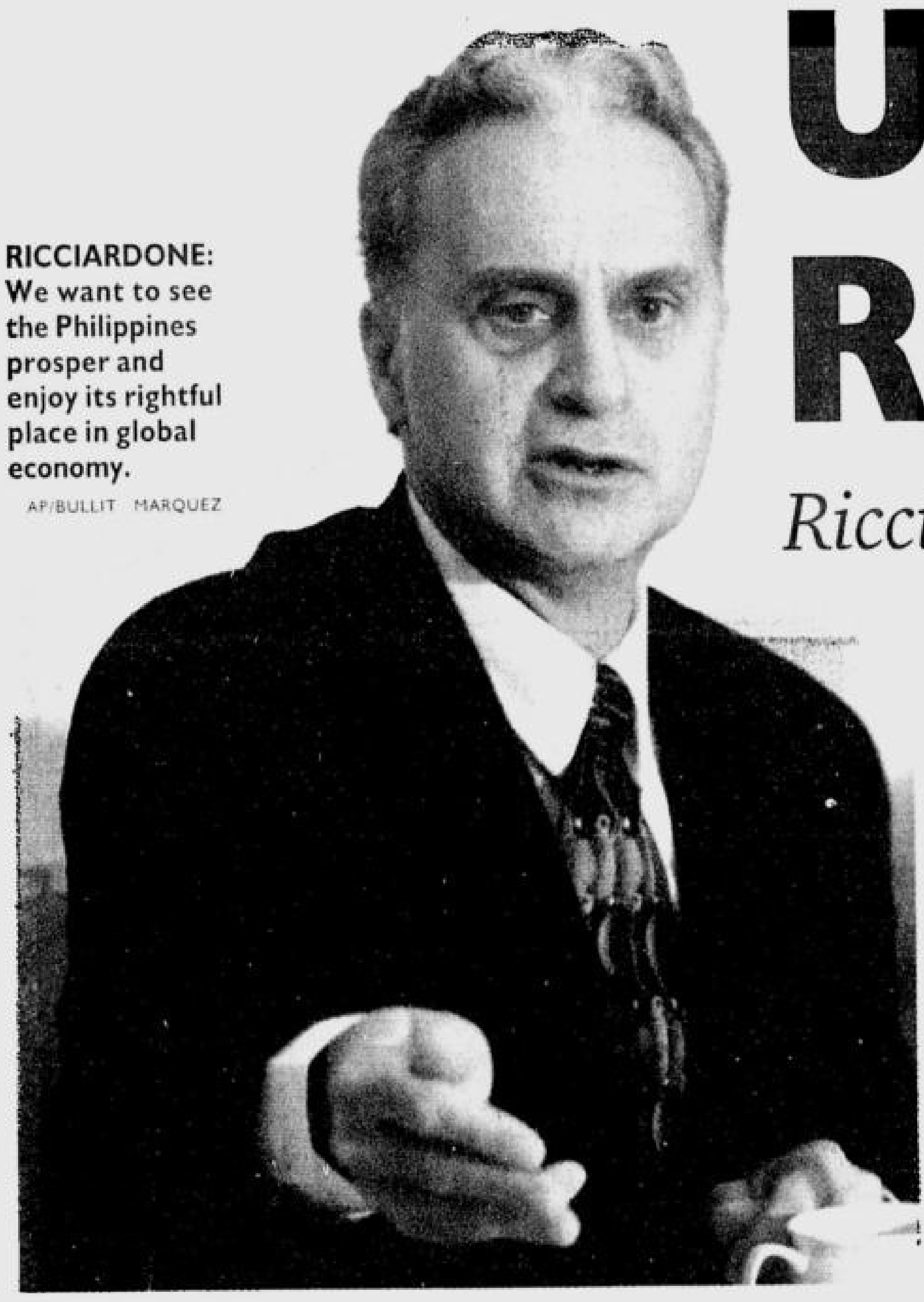
Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), aired the apology last night after emerging from the recollection Mass officiated by Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas at the Edsa Shrine.

He said he was leaving the matter of Malacañang's supposed plan to tap the services of opposition Sen. Blas Ople and three of ex-President Joseph Estrada's officials—which he had

SAYCON/A16

US envoy slams RP corruption

Ricciardone cites No. 1 barrier to investments



RICCIARDONE: We want to see the Philippines prosper and enjoy its rightful place in global economy.

AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

FRANK talk from Ambassador Frank Ricciardone.

The new American envoy to the Philippines yesterday said the country was losing the economic race in Asia because of constitutional barriers to foreign investment and perceptions of widespread corruption, especially in the judiciary.

The No. 1 barrier is "corruption, not just regarding the courts but also officials outside" the judiciary, Ricciardone told Manila-based foreign correspondents.

"Foreign investors have complained about that to me and to other ambassadors here (such that) we have a real problem here," he said.

"They want to make sure that foreigners and Filipinos alike and their Filipino partners can have equal access to the courts, to be assured of timely justice, that is not corrupted by people who work outside this system" or within it.

He said Washington wanted Manila, a military ally and an important partner in the ongoing US-led global war on terrorism, to "enjoy its rightful place in the global economy and not just watch foreign investors go to China or other countries that are opening their economies."

"We want to see the Philippines prosper," Ricciardone said.

He singled out enforcement of intellectual property rights of US companies complaining of piracy as a problem.

Total bilateral trade between the two countries amounts to about $20 billion annually, Ricciardone said, with the country enjoying a $4-billion surplus. That is, Philippine exports to the United States run to about $12 billion, while US exports to the country amount to about $8 billion.

Ricciardone said US and other foreign investors had also cited "non-tariff barriers to trade," including the 1987 Constitution that sets foreign equity limits of 40 percent on certain economic activities and shuts them out in other fields.

"We understand that, we respect it, but in the legal playing out of that you get a lot of complications," he said.

"If you want your economy to grow, investment has to come from somewhere. Investors will go anywhere in the world where they are wanted and they will stay away from where they are not wanted," he said.

"So if you want to prosper you have to make it easier for people to come,

US ENVOY/A4

US hopes logistics pact signed before Powell visit

By Norman Bordadora

US AMBASSADOR Frank Ricciardone said yesterday that he hoped the RP-US Mutual Logistic Support Agreement would be signed before Balikatan 02-1 wraps up on July 31—just in time for US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit early next month.

"We have been ready since February for the signing. We'd like to have it because it would help us do things more efficiently," said Ricciardone, who presented his credentials to President Macapagal-Arroyo last February.

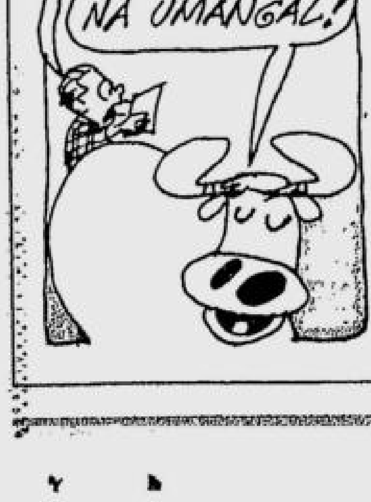
"The Philippines is a friend and with the MLSA at the end of the exercises, we can evaluate how much (of our supplies) can be left here," Ricciardone told foreign correspondents.

Another US official said a new joint military exercise would take place beginning tomorrow, with the primary focus on preparedness for disaster relief efforts.

Ricciardone said the United States did not really need the MLSA. "We're not interested in pushing for it if your leaders don't want to sign. It's no big deal," he added.

If the Philippine side decided not to

US HOPES/A4



SOBRA NAMANG BABA NITO ?!?!
PARA DI KA NA UMANGAL!

Now, Ka Bel gripes about low electric bill

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AFTER months of complaining about high electricity rates, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran last week got something really electrifying in the mail. A Manila Electric Co. bill for P11.15.

"I would gladly pay this P11.15 bill under any other circumstances, but it is

NOW/A4

40% voter turnout noted in Metro

By Blanche S. Rivera, Martin P. Marfil, TJ Burgonio and PDI Bureaus

IF the turnout of voters in Metro Manila for the barangay elections is any indication, Filipinos are indeed dissatisfied with how democracy works in the country. Or they are just not interested in the polls.

Only 40 percent of voters aged 18 and above in the National Capital Region exercised their right of suffrage, Benjamin Abalos, chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), said last night.

(See related story on A21)

Voting for the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections opened after at least 75 people were killed, the military said.

Despite the violence, both the military and police claimed the polls were generally peaceful.

Local Government Secretary Joey Lina said the death toll was lower than in previous elections.

As in elections past, there were reports of vote buying, flying voters and disenfranchisement of voters.

Surprisingly, the turnout was higher for the SK elections nationwide and the barangay elections in Pampanga, many parts of which are flooded.

High voters' turnout was also observed in many areas in Western, Central and Eastern Visayas.

Richard Nalupta, National SK Federation president, said 70 to 75 percent of voters between 15 and 17 cast their

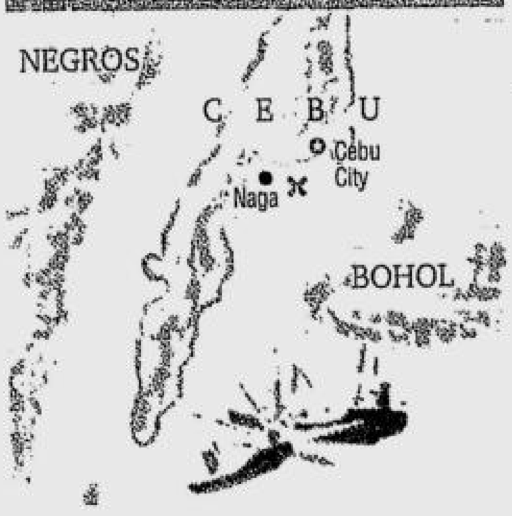
40%/A15

AN ARMY soldier coaxes an elderly woman to vote at the Panglima Mammak Elementary School in Tagbak, Indanan, Sulu. VAL HANDUMON

TSK! TSK! HUMAN ERROR NA NAMAN DAW!

Second FRONT PAGE

SHIP COLLISION



2 ships collide; 1 dead, 2 missing

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two cement cargo ships collided shortly after midnight Sunday off Naga town, 21 km south of here, killing the captain of one vessel and leaving two crewmen missing, officials said yesterday.

The MV Romeo sank within 10-15 minutes of the impact about two km from the Apo Cement company wharf where it had just loaded 32,000 bags of cement, Cebu Coast Guard Commander Feliciano Dy said.

The 908-ton Romeo, with a crew of 23, was headed for Legazpi City in Bicol. The 246-ton MV Alison Concarrier V, which had been anchored at sea, began approaching the wharf and slammed into the Romeo, Dy said.

The collision ripped a hole in the Romeo, while the Alison, with a crew of 18, did not sustain serious damage. Both ships have steel hulls.

The Romeo's captain, Alfredo Legislador, was declared dead on arrival at a hospital in nearby Minglanilla town. He suffered from internal injuries, including broken ribs, which he sustained when he and his men jumped into the water as their ship began to sink.

Two crewmembers—Henry Marte, the quartermaster, and Rodolfo Malaga, the crane operator—remained missing as of yesterday afternoon. Apocemco tugboats plucked the rest of Romeo's crew out of the water.

No one from the Allison was reported injured.

"We were leaving full steam ahead," the Romeo's chief engineer, Hilario Saul, told The Associated Press. "We told the Allison by radio to stand by because we were going out. They replied 'Roger, roger,' but they kept on coming. I saw the Alison coming straight at us. We were shouting . . . Water rushed in very fast."

Dy said human error could be involved in the tragedy. He said he was informed that the two vessels were in constant communication up to the moment of collision. ***With AP report***

US eyes new weapon against terrorism: English teachers

WASHINGTON might deploy of a new force against terrorism and Muslim extremism in the Philippines—American English teachers.

Aside from providing military trainers and weapons, US officials want to revive a century-old tradition of sending teachers to this former American colony to help promote democratic values, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said yesterday.

Ricciardone said he would broach the idea with an education adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo later in the day.

He told the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines that Osama bin Laden's al Qaida terrorist network was trying to undermine Southeast Asia by supporting local Muslim radicals.

"It's . . . some kind of a franchising operation . . . by having people come here, training people outside or providing funds or providing knowledge on how to make bombs and place them," Ricciardone said.

He cited the arrest in the Philippines of suspected members of the Jemaah Islamiya, a group accused of links to al-Qaida and of plotting to blow up US and other Western targets in Singapore.

Ricciardone said, without elaborating, that "outside forces" have tried to promote intolerance and extremism among the Muslim minority in mainly Roman Catholic Philippines.

Philippine police officials worry foreign Muslim radicals could be using some religious schools to recruit al-Qaida sympathizers.

Teaching English to more Filipinos, and promoting democracy and the rule of law, could contribute in the war against terrorism, Ricciardone said.

It would also demonstrate that the campaign was not just about deploying "anti-terrorism Rambos," he said.

"We'd like to see if we can help maybe revive an English-language teaching program . . . that's another way of fighting terrorism," he said. "We think education is very, very important in promoting and strengthening democracy and defeating the forces of radicalism."

The strategy was adopted worldwide by the US government to counter communism during the Cold War, he said.

"Now, we face a new threat of extremism," he said, where Muslim radicals "teach hate, they teach that if someone is different, you should hate them and kill them."

Washington sent volunteer teachers aboard the USS Thomas to the Philippines when it became a US colony in the early 1900s.

The Americans, dubbed the Thomasites, introduced the concept of American public education that eventually became the basis of the Philippine educational system. **AP**

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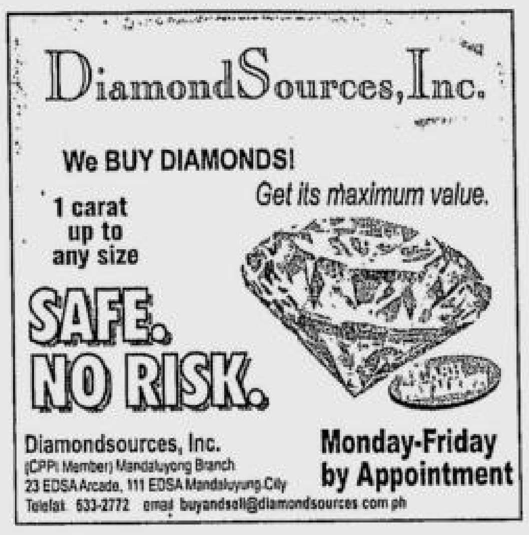
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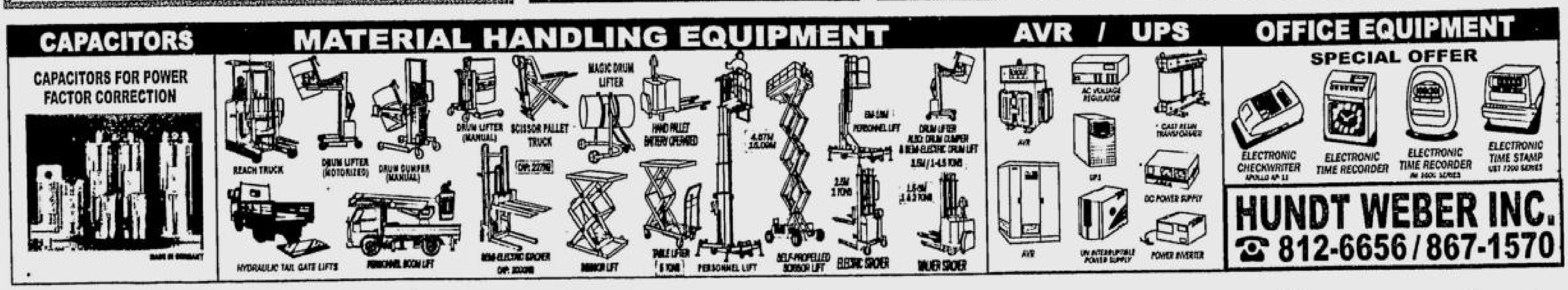
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Abu a spent force–US envoy

ABU Sayyaf is a spent force after a US-Philippines military operation, but the conditions that bred them could just as easily bring forth a new Southeast Asian "terror" group, an American diplomat said yesterday.

"We don't think there's much left in them," US ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone said, speaking two weeks before a 1,000-member US military advisory mission pulls out of Mindanao following a six-month joint campaign against the Muslim rebel group.

"They've been much diminished in terms of whatever formality and organization they had. At least one of its five principal leaders has been killed, the others are on the run. The numbers of fighters clearly are much diminished," he told reporters.

But the remnants of the group "remain to be mopped up" from among a substantial base of support among relatives in the Muslim areas of the South.

Ricciardone also warned that "the conditions from which they sprang from need to be addressed—the poverty, the poor environment, the joblessness, the hopelessness in which they work and within which they terrorize their own communities."

It must be "addressed and cleaned up, otherwise there are people like them who will continue to take their places. So the story is not over, the job is not done."

Ricciardone warned that the al-Qaida infrastructure in the region remained intact.

The envoy said the US "will keep a small presence" in the southern Philippines "at least until October, perhaps beyond," and continue joint military training exercises with Filipino troops. The next training program is scheduled in the south in October. *AFP*

DoJ urged to put Bacolod family in witness program

By Philip C. Tubeza

CRUSADE Against Violence chair Carina Agarao yesterday urged the Department of Justice to include the surviving members of the Bacolod family in the government's witness protection program, after the DoJ rejected the family's request for the second time.

The rejection came in spite of the massacre of Bacolod family members by a member of Ruben Ecleo Jr.'s Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association.

"For reasons only regional prosecutor Hernando Masang-kay can explain, he denied the second request of the family," Agarao told reporters during a press conference at the DoJ yesterday.

"We thought that because the massacre had happened, they would be granted coverage. But to our surprise, the request was denied. We do not know which side he is on," she said.

Agarao emphasized that the five remaining Bacolod family members urgently need government protection. She said the CAV helped the Bacolod family apply for the WPP after Ecleo allegedly murdered his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, on January 5.

Spare 17 convicts, solon urges GMA

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to commute the death sentences of 17 convicts scheduled for execution this year.

Pimentel said the President should not be swayed by anti-crime officials' opinion that executions would solve kidnappings and other heinous crimes.

"To put it bluntly," he said, "the much-vaunted deterrent effect of the death penalty has simply been assumed, but not scientifically proven."

Of the 17 convicts lined up for lethal injection, 14 were sentenced for rape, two for kidnapping and one for robbery with homicide.

Pimentel appealed to Ms Macapagal to commute to life imprisonment the death sentence of rapists Ronaldo Pagdayawon and Alfredo Nardo, as well as kidnappers Roderick Licayan and Ricardo Lara, whose penalties had already been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

The senator lamented that the President was under increasing pressure from sectors impatient over the growing incidence of kidnapping-for-ransom and drug-related crimes. Malacañang recently announced that executions would resume starting in October.

Pimentel stressed that it was not the death penalty but the swift arrest, prosecution, conviction and detention of suspects that would discourage would-be offenders. He said the execution of a human being was "barbaric and inhuman," and should be declared constitutionally impermissible.

A total of 15 senators led by Pimentel have already signed Senate Bill 2060, seeking the abolition of the death penalty.

But an anti-crime group yesterday defended Ms Macapagal's position in the face of what it described as "political blackmail" by the Catholic Church. ***With Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendano***

Perez, Golez, 17 execs off to Scotland Yard

By TJ Burgonio

CONVINCED that they need first-hand training in combating terrorism, 19 top government and police officials leave for the United Kingdom on Saturday to attend a week-long basic course in crisis management.

The high-profile contingent includes Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno and Local Government Undersecretary Wenceslao Andanar.

They will attend the six-day course at the Emergency Planning College in Scotland Yard, along with Police Directors Florencio Fianza, Lucas Managuelod and Ricardo de Leon.

"The course includes handling man-made and natural disasters, as well as terrorist activities," Fianza said.

Also on Saturday, four police officers led by Supt. Allan Purisima of the defunct National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force, will depart for the UK to attend a six-day training on major crime case investigation.

Fianza said the British government was sponsoring both trainings. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo had asked him to follow up on the British government's previous offer, and make all necessary arrangements.

These were in line with the President's efforts to improve the capability of government units in combating terrorism, the police official said.

The Philippine National Police is hosting a send-off party at the Star Lounge inside its national headquarters at 3 p.m. today. Expected to attend are officials and staff of the British Embassy in Manila.

World press watchdog raps military

A WORLD press watchdog body on Monday said it was gravely concerned for the safety of a Filipino journalist mistakenly tagged by the military as a member of the ruthless Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang last week.

While the Armed Forces has apologized for the mistake and ordered Bernadette Tamayo's name stricken off a list of wanted Abu Sayyaf rebels, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) scolded the Army for what it called a reckless act.

"The military should exercise utmost caution before labelling anyone a terrorist. This kind of reckless action can get people killed," CPJ Asia consultant A. Lin Neumann said in a statement in Manila. *AFP*

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Now, Ka Bel gripes about low electric bill

From page A1

obvious there's a sneaky ploy here somewhere," Beltran said in a statement. "Meralco is directly behind it."

Now he wants Meralco probed for the "highly suspicious" billing statement, which he called "ridiculously low."

Beltran, who lives near the Batasan Complex and the Payatas area in Quezon City, said his monthly bill averages P2,500 a month. Since April, he has insisted on paying only for Meralco's basic charge and not the purchased power adjustment charge that accounts for more than half of his bill. But Meralco has always refused to accept his partial payment, although it has never disconnected service to his house.

Getting more paranoid, Beltran also broached the possibility that the Macapagal administration had a hand in deliberately lowering his electricity bill. But he said he would not allow the President to use his own bill as proof of her accomplishment in bringing down electricity rates, which he said she would cite in next week's State of the Nation Address.

Meralco has lowered the PPA it charges the public by 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour, from P1.25 per kWh, after Ms Macapagal issued a directive in May.

Including discounts

Beltran's household consumed 51 kWh from June 10 to July 11. He was supposed to have paid P193.90—P90.40 in basic charge, P5.45 in currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera) and P98.05 in PPA.

But the bill included discounts amounting to P182.75. Of this, P15.30 accounted for the 30-centavo-per-kWh mandatory rate decrease under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act; P96.95 for the May PPA reduction as applied to June billing days; and P70.50 for the same reduction as applied to May billing days.

Meralco's chief of utility economics, Ivanna dela Peña, said she had asked the company's Commonwealth branch, where Beltran pays his bills, to check whether there was a problem with the reading of Beltran's electric meter or with the meter itself.

"He used only 51 kWh in the last billing cycle while his average monthly consumption February to June was over 300 kWh," Dela Peña said.

She confirmed that Beltran had been a "good payor" before the PPA controversy broke out in April, which was when he started to refuse paying for the charge.

"We could not accept partial payments and I believe he has been issued his second disconnection notice," Dela Peña said. "I'm just not sure when this will be implemented."

No problem

"I never had a problem in paying for monthly electricity bills, but I don't want to pay for electricity that I and my household did not (use)," Beltran said.

He said Ms Macapagal's order in May to reduce the National Power Corp.'s PPA charge meant revenue losses of P5 billion, which the government would have to finance through long-term borrowings.

"(But) she will keep mum on the increased payments that consumers will soon pay a few months from now to pay for Napocor's loans," he said. ***With a report from Christine Avendaño and Agnes Donato***

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US hopes logistics pact signed before Powell visit

From page A1

sign the MLSA, Ricciardone said the two countries' military relations would continue to be productive. "We respect what our partners will do," he said.

He said Powell would make a stop in the Philippines after the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum. Powell would probably be in the country following visits to India and Pakistan, he said.

No bases

The ambassador stressed that the MLSA did not mean the return of American bases in the Philippines.

"It's a deliberate twisting and distorting of the purpose and function of this treaty. The bases issue (was) over 10 years ago," Ricciardone said.

"There are other places where we can do it like uninhabited islands, where we do not have to go through all these," he added.

In another press briefing, US military spokesperson Leslie Hull-Ryde said the new military exercise, which lasts for 10 days, would involve 1,400 sailors, Marines and Coast Guard forces from each side and would culminate in a mock amphibious assault. The Philippines and the United States are deploying five ships each.

Hull-Ryde repeatedly emphasized there was no connection between Balikatan 02-1, the first joint RP-US military exercise to be located in combat areas, and the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training maneuver, which is being held for the eighth consecutive year.

"This is not tied to the war on terrorism," she said. "This is not tied to any other exercise."

The primary site will be at sea about 30 km from the former US navy base at Subic.

Some 100 US Marines are coming from Okinawa, Japan, 100 Coast Guardsmen from Alameda, California, and 1,000 sailors from Japan, Hawaii and San Diego.

Three US Army veterinarians will also take part in a variety of civic projects that also include medical and dental clinics and the repair of a school near Subic, Hull-Ryde said.

Hull-Ryde said the only live-fire component to the new exercise would be small arms practice at a firing range as part of the Marines' regular training.

With a report from AP

US envoy slams RP corruption

From page A1

and (provide) a reasonable assurance on a return on their investment."

Ricciardone emphasized that he was not advocating a constitutional amendment, a sensitive political issue. Some critics have claimed that amending the Constitution now could endanger the democracy that was restored in 1986, after the fall of the Marcos regime.

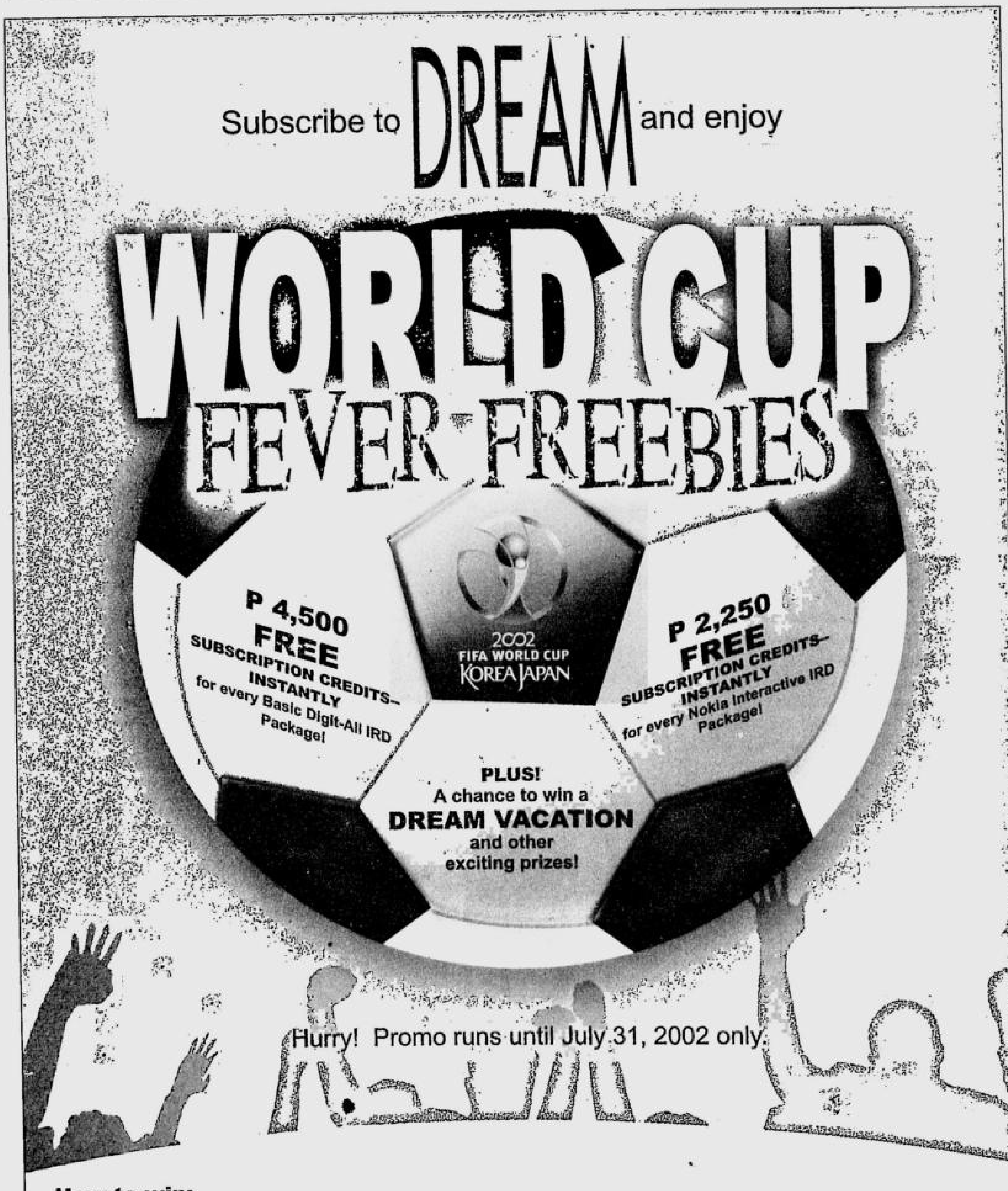
Ricciardone said the Philippines did enjoy an advantage in the form of "democracy" and a "free press," which can help the government fight corruption.

Considering the country's attraction as a robust democracy, however, he said "more could be done to make the Philippines more attractive compared with other countries."

He added that crumbling infrastructure was also a disincentive.

"On the one hand, foreigners are interested in investing in infrastructure. On the other hand, not having world-class roads and sometimes communications can be a real problem. Access to power in certain areas . . . is another issue," he said.

Reports by AFP, AP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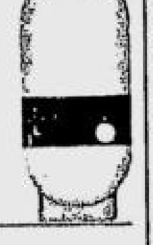

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Erap to bishop: Where's P50M I gave you?

By Rocky Nazareno

"STOP meddling in politics."

Former President Joseph Estrada lashed back yesterday at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) for saying that the opposition was responsible for the growing leadership crisis in the Macapagal administration.

"If they are sincere in promoting unity and reconciliation," Estrada said in a statement, the church officials should stick to "saving souls."

Training his ire on CBCP president Orlando Quevedo, who issued the statement, Estrada demanded the liquidation of a P50 million donation he allegedly made to the bishops' group during his term.

The former president said the money was from the Presidential Social Fund for the rehabilitation of war-torn Mindanao. He said he had yet to hear from Quevedo (Archbishop of Cotabato) or the CBCP about where the money actually went.

Estrada said he personally handed to Quevedo the P50-million check in the presence of former ambassador (to the Vatican) Howard Q. Dy, a few weeks after the Armed Forces recovered the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) camps in Mindanao.

Despite his repeated "accommodation" of its requests for favors while he was president, Estrada said, the church, under Quevedo and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, "went on to secretly conspire with Ms Macapagal and her allies" against him.

In a telephone interview, Quevedo neither confirmed nor denied receipt of the P50 million. He merely said, "Same old story. I have explained in the past, many times, why the church should get involved in Philippine politics."

Opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Panfilo Lacson also reacted to Quevedo's statement that the lawmakers who seized power in the Senate last June 3, were to blame for Ms. Macapagal's woes.

The Senate's "new majority" asserted its power, Pimentel pointed out, because "the erstwhile majority failed miserably to discharge their duties."

Pimentel maintained that even other current issues should not be attributed to the opposition. Kidnappings, discontent, the Guingona resignation, the ongoing Muslim rebellion, and continued jueteng operations—these, Pimentel said, were matters "directly attributable to the Macapagal administration."

It was not because Ms. Macapagal was a "bad person," he said, but because "the buck stops at her desk."

Lacson lamented that Quevedo's statement merely aggravated the political situation.

It seemed the church officials could not stop talking politics, he said, and wondered: "Are we going back to the time of the Spanish friars?"

With Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Pope sends condolences to RP typhoon victims

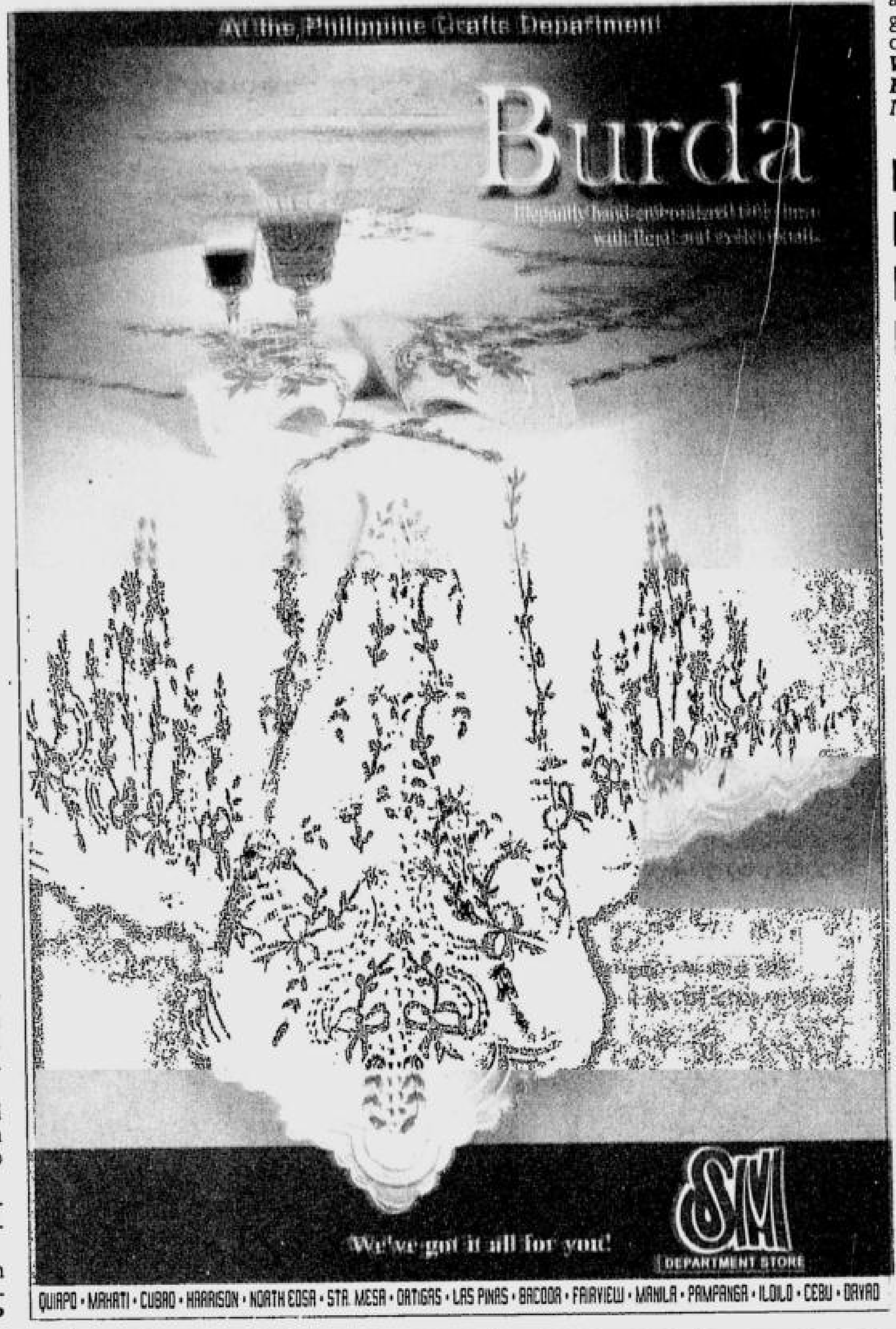
VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II on Monday sent his condolences to the families of victims of typhoon Halong, which has killed at least 55 people in the Philippines and left tens of thousands homeless.

"The Holy Father is close to you in prayer," said the message, delivered in a telegram from Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The message said the pope "joins you in appealing for a great surge of solidarity at this difficult time for the nation."

It said John Paul II invoked "divine strength and comfort" for the grieving families of the victims.

AFP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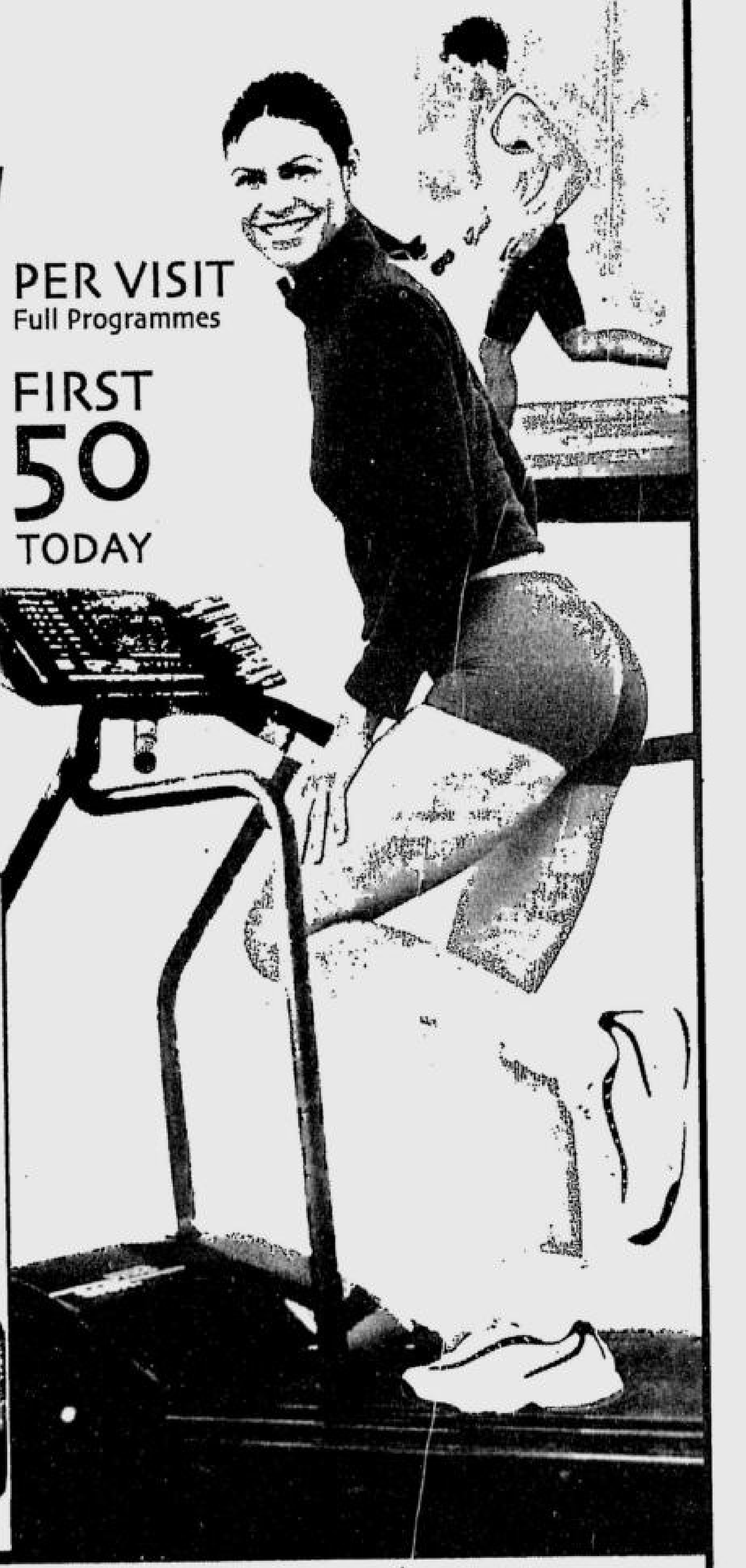

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55 Years of Committed Excellence in Medical Education and Community Service

MEDICINE
MCU FDTMF Hospital

MESSAGES

I greet the administration and staff of the Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation on the celebration of its 55th Foundation Anniversary.

I commend this organization for its unwavering commitment to uplift the quality and delivery of health care services all over the country. As one of the prime organizations involved in providing medical assistance to our people, your active partnership with this Administration ensures that many of our people's lives will be uplifted. This gathering is a fortuitous opportunity to address issues and concerns crucial to your profession.

This event with the theme, "55 years of Committed Excellence in Medical Education and Community Service", manifests your organization's unwavering commitment to further improve on the health care services in our local schools. The services you provide does not only complement our government's health care programs but also encapsulates this Administration's thrust to hasten our country's healing and rebuilding process. May this event renew your dedication in further improving on your expertise so that you will be able to practice your profession with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

I wish you more years of fruitful service to our countrymen. May you undertake more significant and worthy endeavors for better health and welfare of our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I convey my warmest felicitations to all the administrative officials, faculty, students, support staff & alumni of the MCU-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation on the occasion of its 55th Foundation Day Celebration.

The College of Medicine & Hospital had been a pet project of my late mother, President Purificacion Gallego Tanchoco who labored hard to put up the College & the Hospital, with the full support, commitment, dedication & perseverance of its leaders & faculty staff.

The College graduated many competent, compassionate & morally upright doctors who are now distinguished healers, leaders & social mobilizers of their communities both here & abroad.

I commend the organizing committee for preparing a wonderful program of activities that will enhance the appreciation of the role of the College in helping build our nation.

It is the firm belief of the founders & the present administration that the greatest legacy that can be given to the youth is a good & quality education & for this we commit our all !

Congratulations!

LUALHATI TANCHOCO-GONZALEZ
President
Manila Central University

It is with distinct privilege and honor to send my best wishes and sincerest congratulations to the Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation on the celebration of its 55th Foundation Anniversary with the theme, "55 Years of Committed Excellence in Medical Education and Community Service."

The increasing demand for quality healthcare, most especially from the depressed sector of our society, is a growing challenge for the health sector. It has therefore always been the primary interest of the Department of Health to make sure that excellent health services are made available, affordable and accessible to all Filipinos, particularly to the less fortunate among our people.

Towards this end, it has continued to inspire various institutions and groups to join the health department in pursuing our common objective of delivering better healthcare services, with the end-goal improving the state of health of our people. Being one of the respected medical institutions in the country today, your long years of dedicated service and devotion of promoting health have been instrumental to the building of a healthy nation.

As you come together to celebrate more than half a century of excellence in medical education and community service, it is only fitting and proper that you once again renew your commitment to serve our fellow Filipinos to the best of your abilities and in the best interest of our people.

Congratulations Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD., Msc.
Secretary
Department of Health

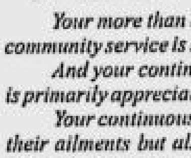
It gives us great pleasure to extend our sincere felicitations to the administrators, faculty, staff, alumni and students of the Manila Central University-Felimon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation on the occasion of your 55th Foundation Anniversary.

It is indeed heartwarming to note MCU's earnest endeavor to further improve the quality of education by providing their students with only the best in medical education. MCU, in its 55 years of existence, has continued to mold the minds and spirits of young Filipinos in their pursuit of higher learning.

I wish you more productive years of service and may you continue to provide our countrymen the quality of education they rightfully deserve.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

ESTHER A. GARCIA
Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education



My warmest felicitations to the exemplary people behind the Manila Central University - Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation on your 55th Founding Anniversary.

Good health has always been considered one of man's greatest treasures. A treasure that should always be recovered and safeguarded.

Your more than a half-century of committed excellence in medical education and community service is heartening to note.

And your continuing support to the city's aim of providing accessible health care is primarily appreciated.

Your continuous health and medical missions offer our people not only relief from their ailments but also renewed hope that there are those who are willing to lend a caring hand.

I once again, challenge you, valiant doctors, to continue directing your excellent medical expertise to our constituents, especially to those who have less in life.

My best wishes and Mabuhay po kayo!

REYNALDO O. MALONZO
Mayor
Caloocan City

VISION

To sustain the leadership of MCU as an educational institution in the health, science and professional program whose graduates are exposed to holistic education and technology-based instruction and research, and responsive to the needs of the growing global village.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of men and women dedicated to work together and support one another in wisdom and knowledge with the mission to graduate COMPLEAT doctors who are:

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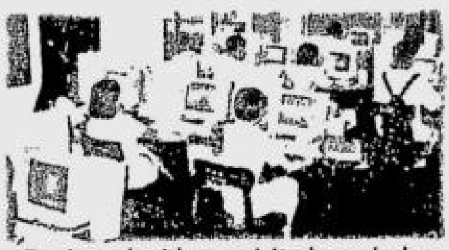
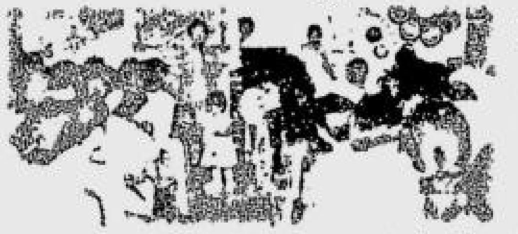


Equipped with requisite knowledge and basic skills in research and technology.



Committed to improve the community health care and help develop the nation and respond to global challenges.

Realizing that in the process, the development of the individual's potential is achieved thus contributing to the growth of the institution.

HOSPITAL MISSION STATEMENT

WE SERVE

To deliver quality patient care and conduct updated training programs, equip health providers with technology and instill high ethical values in the care of patients.

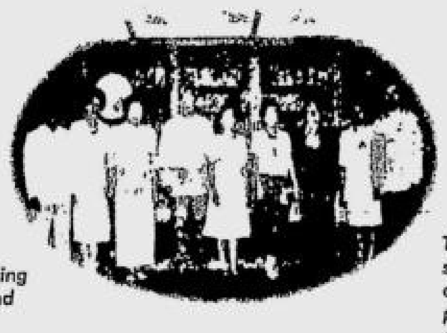
WE BELIEVE

In the pursuit of scientific knowledge through vigorous research activities essential in continuously improving our service and training.

LAUNCHING OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF

WE COMMIT

To work as a team improving professional performance, ensuring individual satisfaction, loyalty and institutional viability.



WE COMMUNICATE

To maintain our leadership in health sciences, corroborate alliances with outside agencies in order to foster partnerships through exchange of resources.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

July 16, 2002	
7:00 am - 12:00 NN	Free Clinic
7:00 am - 7:00 pm	Surgical Mission
12:00 NN - 1:00 pm	Feast of St. Camillus De Lellis
July 17, 2002	
9:00 am - 12:00 NN	Layman's Forum on Menopause Pediatric & Adult Basic Life Support Seminar
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Stress Management Forum *Lecture on Stress Management* ***Mr. Anthony N. Pangilinan*** Acoustic Reflux
July 18, 2002	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Commercial Exhibits
9:00 am - 12:00 NN	Awarding of Recognition to Students, Employees, Faculty and Alumni
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	25th RPT's Research Paper Contest
July 19, 2002	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Thanksgiving Mass Fr. Bel San Luis Fr. Guillermo Ramo
9:00 am - 11:00 am	*Keynote Speaker:* ***Hon. Juan M. Flavier*** *Senator, Republic of the Philippines*
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Scientific Exhibits
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	"Fiesta sa MCU-FDTMF"
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Cheering Squad Competition
July 26, 2002	
6:00 pm	LIVE CONCERT FREESTYLE BAND

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SENATE STANDOFF

No more working coalition; we'll have the numbers–Loren

By Rocky Nazareno

DRAWING a positive scenario for the administration bloc when the 12th Congress reconvenes on July 22, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste yesterday said, "We will have the numbers."

Therefore, Legarda said, senators allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo no longer needed to enter into a working coalition with the opposition, or seek arbitration to end the ongoing Senate impasse.

Legarda dismissed speculations that a meeting set tomorrow between representatives of the administration and opposition blocs would strike up a power-sharing agreement before the opening of the Senate sessions.

She told the INQUIRER that the meeting, with her and Senate President Franklin Drilon speaking for the administration and Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Edgardo Angara for the opposition, would merely set the tone for the opening session on Monday.

"Any talk of power-sharing is jumping the gun (on the discussions)," she said.

Legarda stressed that Sen. Ramon Revilla, who was in the Unites States for medical treatment, would return to the country this week, equalizing the votes.

Administration Sen. Renato Cayetano, who stands to lose the most in the event of a Senate reorganization, said he was "satisfied with the assurances made by Drilon and Legarda" that the power-sharing pact forged before the start of the first regular session would be followed.

Under this agreement, Drilon would sit as Senate President for the first part of the 12th Congress, or until December 2002, with Cayetano taking over until June 2004.

But the opposition is saying otherwise.

Pimentel said that while some of the administration senators had continued to resist the idea of power-sharing, "most of them have acknowledged that this is the only solution to the impasse."

Completely contradicting Legarda, he said Wednesday's meeting would be about details of the power-sharing proposal, and reorganization of committee chairmanships.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan was skeptical. "Since the opposition has reportedly made a commitment to oust President Macapagal in 2004," he asked, "how can a (real) working coalition materialize?"

Who will replace Desierto? Race is on

By Juliet L. Javellana

WHO will replace Ombudsman Aniano Desierto when he retires on August 4? Many personalities are said to be vying for the powerful post.

Former Sen. Wigberto Tañada and Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) Chair Haydee Yorac had been endorsed to President Macapagal-Arroyo by certain civil society groups, according to a member of the House.

But sources said Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo had the inside track in the race. A fourth candidate mentioned in some sectors was Chief Prosecutor Jovencito R. Zuno.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez recently told the INQUIRER why it was such a coveted office: "The Ombudsman is the only official who can investigate the President."

Another congressman, who asked not to be named, said Tañada was also the bet of the Liberal Party. He said several civil society groups had submitted the names of both Tañada and Yorac for consideration. However, he said, Yorac might not be interested.

Still another source said Marcelo was likely to clinch the post because of his closeness to Ms Macapagal.

"Even in the Office of the Ombudsman, Marcelo is already being talked about as the new Ombudsman," the source said.

Marcelo was said to have the President's trust since he was from her alleged favorite law firm, Carpio & Villarasa.

Zuno was prosecutor for some high-profile cases, including the Vizconde massacre and the rape-murder case against former mayor Antonio Sanchez of Calauan, Laguna. A high government official who is very close to Ms Macapagal is reportedly pushing for Zuno's appointment.

Desierto's bid for a seat in the Supreme Court was boosted yesterday with his endorsement by two Cabinet secretaries and a top business leader.

Budget Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and former Makati Business Club president Ricardo J. Romulo have separately expressed their support for and endorsement of Desierto to the high court in letters to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and members of the judicial and Bar Council, the body that screens and nominates SC appointees.

But it wasn't all roses for Desierto.

Lawyer Ernesto B. Francisco Jr. has filed an opposition against his nomination to the high tribunal.

Francisco, who filed an impeachment case against the Ombudsman in Congress, said Desierto was "not a person of proven integrity and . . . lacks the virtues of honesty, integrity, incorruptibility, irreproachable conduct, and fidelity to sound moral and ethical standards."

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OPINION

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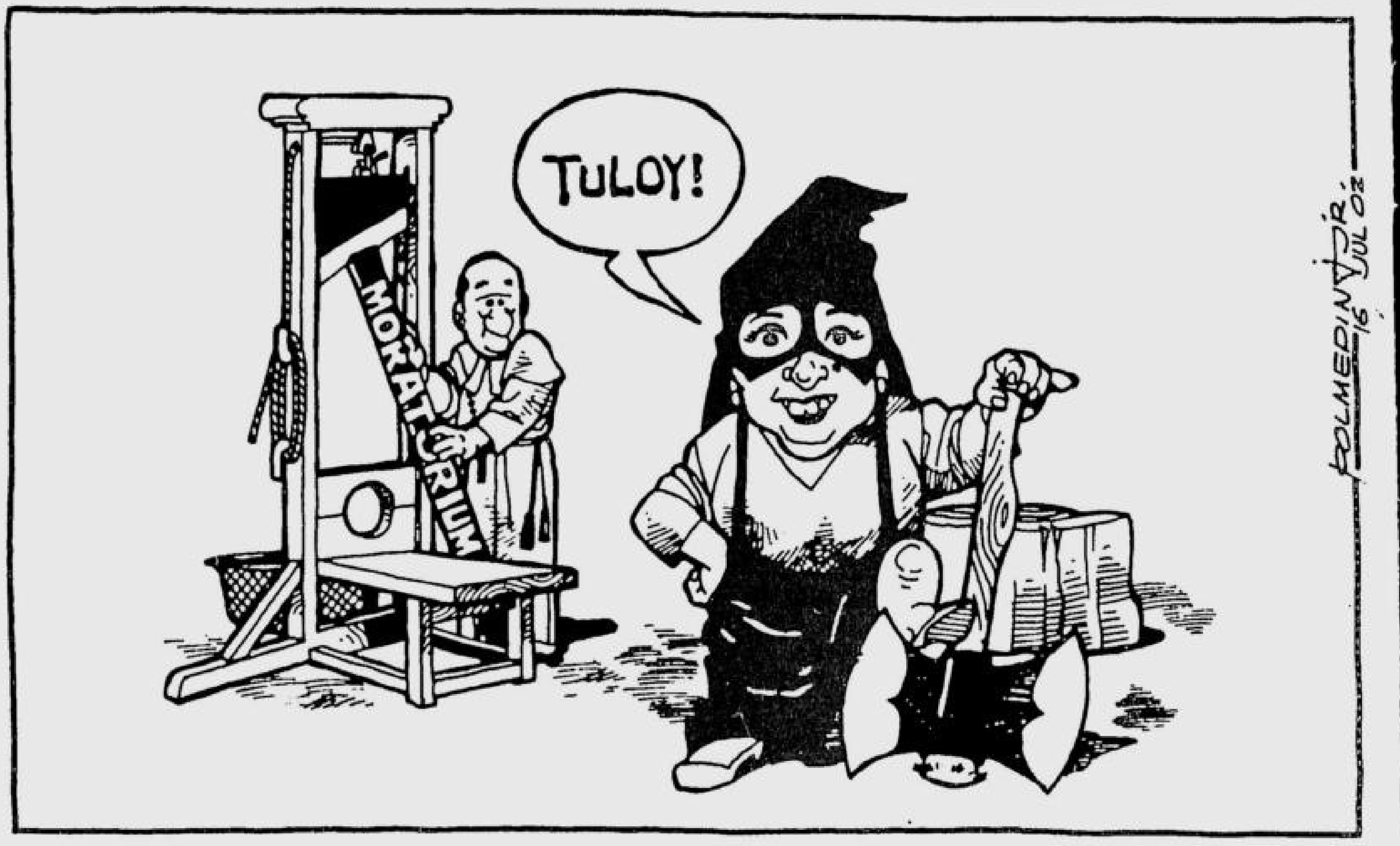


Time bomb

EDITORIAL

THE NATION marked World Population Day last Thursday, but not a word was heard from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the population problem. And yet, as the country's creditors and donors have said recently, and as many administration officials have acknowledged, economic development and poverty alleviation programs would be useless if population growth spins out of control.

The President has spoken on other problems and issues like crime and terrorism and globalization, for instance, but she has not given us an explicit and specific statement on the major problem of runaway population growth.

Oh, yes, the French news agency AFP reported that in a radio interview on June 2, she said she was not worried by forecasts that the country's population would double in 29 years. "Frankly, I'm not worried because the world's population will also more or less double, and it is not only our problem, it's the whole world's," she said.

Ms Macapagal dismissed predictions of massive social dislocation, saying that "technology always overtakes Armageddon." And although she said family planning is the best measure to curb population growth, she added that couples should make decisions based on "their cultural and religious beliefs."

She did not make any promise to reduce the country's rapidly growing population in her State of the Nation Address last year. The astute politician that she is, she seems to be putting on hold any population management program until after the 2004 presidential election. She doesn't want to rock the population boat lest she lose the support of the Church.

But it's high time the President and Congress faced the country's worsening population problem. The country's population explosion has been called a ticking time bomb that could explode in the near future. Consider the following:

- There are now 80 million Filipinos and about 32 million of them are considered poor.
- The Philippines is the 14th most populous country and it has the highest fertility rate in Asia, with 3.7 children per family.
- Three babies are born every minute, or 1.7 million every year.
- The Philippines has one of the highest population growth rates in Asia, at 2.36 percent—compared with, say, Thailand with 1.8 percent.
- At this rate of growth, the country's population will double in 29 years, the Commission on Population said.

The high population growth rate is putting a strain on natural resources such as water, arable land, fuel supply, timber and minerals. The country's current level of technology cannot keep pace with the rapid population growth, and food supplies, housing, health and medical care and education are not sufficient to meet the needs of the people.

Because of the demands of a growing population, the forest cover has been reduced from 75 percent in 1900 to only 25 percent at present. The fish catch is dwindling, fertile soil has been eroded, coral reefs have been destroyed and watersheds contaminated. The National Geographic Magazine says that habitat loss threatens to kill off about 70 percent of the nation's 500-plus species of endemic land vertebrates.

Economic experts say the population explosion could worsen unemployment, now standing at 13.9 percent, and make it much more difficult to eradicate poverty. Johnny Noe Ravalo, chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said, "We are producing more people faster than we are creating jobs."

The fast-growing population has also left the entire retirement system in disarray. People who have been reading the papers should know this by now: the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System are finding it more difficult every year to cope with the retirement needs of a fast-growing population.

We hope the President will issue a definitive statement on a population management program in her coming State of the Nation Address. Foreign donors led by the World Bank have set aside $20 million in assistance to revive a more aggressive population management program. But the Macapagal administration appears to be lukewarm about pursuing the program. And yet, as a senior finance official of the administration himself admitted, population growth is emerging as one of the biggest threats to sustainable economic growth.

It's time the government tackled the problem squarely and exercised political will in defusing the ticking population bomb.

Mike and Mikey cry foul on stories about them

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WE bumped into the President's son and Pampanga Vice Governor Mikey Arroyo last weekend distributing relief goods in a flooded barangay. He had cut short his honeymoon in the United States to rush home upon learning of the floods that ravaged his home province. But what he complained about was not the floods but the bad publicity about him and his father just as he left for his honeymoon.

A newspaper had reported that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo had tried to get a free publicity ride on the escape of kidnap victim Dr. Charmaine Ong. At a loss where to go or whom to ask for help in San Fernando, Dr. Ong sought sanctuary in a parish church. The newspaper reported that Mike tried to go to the church to have Dr. Ong in his custody as a publicity stunt.

Mike wrote a letter to the paper denying he did that. He was elsewhere playing golf at the time. The writer apologized after checking with his source. He said he had made a mistake. It was not Mike but Mikey the son who tried to muscle in on the free publicity.

Mikey denied this, too. He said he was busy packing for his honeymoon trip the next day and signing last-minute official papers for the Pampanga government in Malacañang when he was informed of Dr. Ong's predicament. He couldn't go himself so he requested the Presidential Security Group to send a platoon of soldiers to Pampanga and provide security for Dr. Ong all the way to her home in Valenzuela City. He said he did not ask the PSG men to tell Dr. Ong to wait for him to fetch her. He said he did not want the people to think he was taking a free ride on the news of Dr. Ong's dramatic escape from her kidnappers.

But that was exactly what was reported: Mike Senior or Mikey tried to horn in the publicity. The report said that when Dr. Ong's father heard on television somebody saying that she was in the custody of Mikey, he and his daughter "left in a huff." One report said Dr. Ong and her father saw "Mikey's convoy in Bulacan, presumably on the way to Pampanga to be with the escaped kidnapping victim."

Mikey said it was all a mistake. The convoy they saw, he said, was the PSG platoon sent to give Dr. Ong security. "They obviously thought I was with them, but I was not," he said. The platoon arrived too late as Dr. Ong had already left, escorted by another group of soldiers.

As scheduled, Mikey left for the United States with wife Angela for their 10-day honeymoon on the day the news of Dr. Ong's escape broke out. He was back after barely a week, however, to join Pampanga officials in relief work in many barangays still underwater because of days of heavy rains brought by many typhoons, including one with the same name as his mother's.

"With me, as a public servant, as with my parents, it is the people and country first before the family," Mikey said.

* * *

Don't be fooled by the floods. We are still facing a drought in the last quarter of the year when El Niño strikes, according to Pagasa. The heavy rains, therefore, are a lucky break. The reservoirs of the dam should be full by now. Wouldn't it be ironic—and downright negligent of the government—if with all that water flooding a great part of Central Luzon, we would still have a water shortage later in the year? We may be drowning in water now, but I am almost certain that when El Niño strikes, many faucets will run dry.

How wasteful that so much excess water is running out into the sea unused when that water can be stored for use when the drought comes. I remember that the World Bank gave us P2 billion to cut up small dams in rivers and streams to impound water. What happened to that fund?

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor told the Kapihan sa Sulo last Saturday that we should rehabilitate the dams and build new ones to impound more water because the El Niño-La Niña cycle is now a regular event. What a shame that the abundant water we have now, which we will need later, is just allowed to go to waste. Imagine how many thousands of hectares the present floodwaters, if stored now, can irrigate in case of a drought in the future.

* * *

Here's good news for pet lovers: A website for pet owners and animal lovers in the Philippines will be inaugurated on July 20 during the "It's Rainin' Cats and Dogs" pet fair at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center.

The website, called Pinoypets.com, will:

"1. Create an online venue where domestic pet enthusiasts, pet groups, pet service givers and veterinarians in the Philippines can interact, contribute services to one another and share the one vision of responsible pet ownership.

"2. Increase public awareness and educate Filipinos on responsible pet ownership, proper pet care, the present state of affairs in the world of animals, and the various services and organizations that can assist Filipino pet owners.

"3. Provide entertainment and assistance to pet owners through feature and news stories, pet advice, directory of services, buy-and-sell and pet adoption services, forums on pets, etc."

Pinoypets.com can be reached at http://www.pinoypets.com. E-mail: pinoypets @hotmail.com.

Theology 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says she isn't bothered by criticisms about the way she's running the country. She does not owe her position to anyone. She owes it only to God. Her debt of gratitude is to God and God alone.

That is all very well, except for two things: One is that it was not God who made her President, it was the people. And the people did so in a way that left little doubt it was their handiwork. They did so not by voting her into power, the way they did one Joseph Estrada, who to this day also invests it with the theological meaning of a divine mandate. The people did so by rising heroically to overthrow him. The people did so by saying in the most thunderous terms—though foreigners, like Time's Anthony Spaeth, who do not know how to listen to the voices of this country, never heard it, or understood what it meant—that the one person they had given the divine mandate to lead this nation, the way they had not given any president before save Ramon Magsaysay, had betrayed their trust and so forfeited that mandate.

Of course, technically, the people did not make Ms Macapagal President. But that was not because she had earned the right more than anybody else to be so, as Cory Aquino had done in 1986. That was simply because the people chose to follow the Constitution they had forged with God's and the Constitutional Commission's help. She was the vice president, she was constitutionally bound to succeed the president, deservedly or not. The people made her President not because of herself but in spite of herself. One would think that would make her more grateful to them, not less.

Unless of course by "God," Ms Macapagal means Jaime Cardinal Sin, who is as close to God as anyone can get in this country. Or his subaltern Bishop Socrates Villegas, the fellow who likes to think the Edsa Shrine is his and his boss' special pipeline to God. He was the one who said the rabble that massed at the Edsa Shrine in April last year desecrated it by their foul presence. He was the one who insist ed the Edsa Shrine not ring with any political statement during the first anniversary of Edsa II. But who now proposes to mediate between Copa and the President in their lovers' quarrel. Well, he can always say that is not political, that is evangelical. His copa runneth over.

Or better still, unless by "God," Ms Macapagal means the Holy Trinity consisting of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, who have been known to take the human forms of Cardinal Sin, Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino in this country. In that sense, truly, I can believe the President when she says her debt of gratitude is to God and God alone. She has been showing that debt of gratitude most fully—and paying it with interest.

But, two, even if you're a religious person, it's still hard to buy Ms Macapagal's theory that she owes a debt of gratitude only to God. Maybe it's true that her becoming President is the product of divine intervention, though that strains mightily the theological postulate of God working in mysterious ways: That is not mysterious, that is incomprehensible. But the Bible also says, or at least the New Testament does, that God does not talk directly to us (William McKinley may have heard someone in the dark order him to seize the Philippines, but it wasn't God), he talks indirectly to us through signs and symbols. Democracy itself, echoing that thought, tells us how we can be certain we are hearing God's voice:

Vox populi, vox Dei. The voice of the people is the voice of God.

That brings us right back to the people. Ms Macapagal owes a debt of gratitude to God only because she owes a debt of gratitude to the people. These two are not separate [illegible] ble. Not in a democracy. Doubly so in Ms Macapagal's case, the theological corollary there being that God speaks more eloquently, or authoritatively, through people power than through elections. If that were not the case, if God's or the people's voice could only be heard through elections, then Ms Macapagal has no business being there, as Erap's legions of followers, and the foreign press, continue to maintain. If that were not the case, then Erap should still be president, owing a debt of gratitude only to God, who has also been known to take the human form of a plaid-suited, fast-talking, Bicolano-accented leader of a vote-rich religious horde, *tiyak yon*.

More than any President, Ms Macapagal owes a debt of gratitude to the people, on the deepest moral, if not theological, grounds. More than even Cory, who could count on no one to contest it legally and morally—as Juan Ponce Enrile, the would-be usurper of the throne, swiftly discovered at Club Filipino after the first Edsa.

Being the beneficiary of people power is not an entitlement to do what one pleases, it is an imperative to do what the people want. Especially for one who desperately needs to show she deserves it. Ms Macapagal would do well to repay that debt not by kneeling humbly on a cushioned kneeling board of the Manila Cathedral, like the Queen Regent, thanking God, whoever He or She is, for His/Her infinite capacity to be mysterious. She would do well to do so by listening again to what God, and/or the people, were saying at Edsa.

If she would only do that, she would hear that it wasn't for her to fritter away the monumental national sacrifice by thinking only of how to win a second term, whatever it takes, this time through God's other vox, which is elections.

The Greeks used to say that whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make deluded. I myself have always thought that whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make anointed.

Or feeling anointed, as the divine hair- [illegible]

'Oplan Coral Necklace'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE'S a report circulating around town about an operation supposedly to be conducted by some opposition elements code-named "Oplan Coral Necklace," involving actions on three fronts on Monday, the opening of Congress. Oplan Coral Necklace is supposedly a continuation of last year's Black October. One is an alleged plot of the opposition in the Senate to boycott the State of the Nation Address of the President, but frankly I doubt if the opposition senators would do something that crazy. They surely know that anything like that would create a backlash from the people as well as from their own colleagues.

Then there's the reported plan to get people out in the streets to demonstrate against GMA. But this should not be surprising at this time of the year, as people of various political stripes are expected to be out there marching.

Then there's a reported plan by armed groups to carry out some destabilization bombings in the metropolis, which is the most disturbing among the three alleged plots. I understand that police and military authorities have been alerted to "Oplan Coral Necklace." They are checking its veracity and taking appropriate precautions. They can't be too careful.

* * *

Two multi-billion-peso pyramid scams uncovered in recent weeks have victimized mainly police and military personnel. These companies are ICS Exports and Glasgow Credit and Collection Services Inc. The fraudulent activities came to light after soldiers and policemen lodged complaints against officials of these companies before the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC has ordered the companies' offices padlocked and has moved to prevent the departure of their officials.

Unfortunately, this is another case of locking the barn after the horses have fled. The poor scam victims, mostly soldiers and policemen who earn very little (never mind the investing officers who have obviously so much to throw around), are left holding the bag. One would think that the SEC would have been forewarned after that big Cosmos scam last year, perpetrated by a Japanese national whose handsome face had smiled from many billboards around the metropolis for many months, blew up, leaving thousands of Filipino victims.

Obviously we Filipinos are a gullible lot, and therefore it behooves the SEC to protect the people against these scams. But SEC has failed to do so. Congress should investigate these scams and the SEC.

* * *

Atom Henares, son of the irrepressible Larry Henares, has written to protest the reported plan to appoint Joselito "Tito" Ojeda as deputy commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission, the agency that regulates broadcast franchisees. Atom says putting Ojeda at the NTC would create a clear conflict of interest as he would be a regulator as well as a "regulatee." Ojeda is the majority stockholder, president and chair of the Lucena City-based Katigbak Enterprises Inc., which owns and operates nine AM, FM and TVC stations, including Power 107.9 FM station in Batangas and Channel 6 TV in Laurel, Batangas. Another conflict of interest would arise from the fact that Ojeda would also be grantor and grantee of broadcast licenses, since he has pending applications for AM and FM stations in Metro Manila. Ojeda will also be the judge and accused since the NTC itself has lodged an administrative case against him, with the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas and Atom Henares as complainants. Ojeda is accused of beaming his signals intended for Batangas toward Metro Manila, thus interfering with the signals of Henares' NU-107 station, in violation of his license and NTC and KBP standards.

Henares has listed down many other "questionable activities" of Ojeda, such as his alleged failure to pay lease licenses and violations of accepted international standard as well as KBP and NTC standards, but just the preceding accusations should be enough to make the appointing power put his appointment on hold.

* * *

Book Corner: The impeachment of Joseph Estrada, the first ever (and hopefully the last) of a sitting president of this country, his Senate trial which was suddenly aborted, and now his trial before the Sandiganbayan, will forever be etched in our memory as a people. Now there are two books (companion pieces really), written by a husband-and-wife team, veteran journalists Oscar Villadolid and Alice Colet-Villadolid, that will ensure that even if the memory dims, as Education Secretary Raul Roco put it in his foreword to the first book, "Filipinos do not forget the excesses of the powerful and the heroism of the perceived powerless."

The first book, titled "The Impeachment of a President," is a selection of Oscar's columns in Sun*Star Manila and a series of feature articles written by Alice for Philippine Graphic Weekly magazine, about the highly charged events beginning with the House vote to send the impeachment charge to the Senate, and the Senate trial that eventually led to Erap's ouster. This book, published in April 2001, contains Alice's narrative and Oscar's opinions.

The second book, "Mills of Justice Grind On—For an Impeached President," consists of feature articles by Alice Villadolid on the on-going trial in the Sandiganbayan, with March 15, 2002 as the cut-off date (I imagine that Alice is preparing a sequel to "Mills of Justice"), along with some vital documents relevant to the Erap trial.

I leafed through the two books during the rainy days and they make gripping reading, reviving many memories both painful and comic. Get the Villadolids' books at the bookstores at only P300 for "Impeachment" and P350 for "Mills of Justice."

Private lives and public policy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE are now 80 million Filipinos, and if, as national statistics say, 40 percent live in dire poverty, it means that up to 32 million Filipinos consider themselves poor and have no means to meet even such basic needs as food, clothing, shelter, clean water, good health and basic education.

I don't think we should or can ignore the links between the 40 percent poverty incidence and the fact that there are now 80 million of us. The present annual population growth rate of 2.36 percent means that over three million Filipinos are born each year, and almost half (if not more) of them will be born to parents and families who are already going hungry.

On average, says the Population Commission, Filipino couples are having more children than they want or have planned for. Contrary to myth, Filipino parents are neither ignorant of nor unwilling to exercise their responsibility as parents. On average, women say they want three children at the most, but end up having four. Clearly, these women and their partners have given serious thought to the number of children they feel they should have and have the capacity to rear responsibly. But for one reason or another they are not able to stick to their decisions, among these reasons being lack of access to family planning services (because they can't afford them or can't get to them), resistance from family members or personal reasons (such as fear of side effects).

This is what's known as the "unmet need" for family planning—the gap between a woman's or a couple's desire or need to limit family size and their ability to exercise it. "Unmet need" has consequences beyond population size or rate of growth or even the size of families. A large "unmet need" also has consequences on the health and survival of women and children, as well as their right to lives of meaning and consequence.

* * *

CERTAINLY, as the Constitution itself states, the decision about the number of children a couple should have, and their choice of family planning method, is and should remain a private matter between the couple.

But private decisions and behavior have a way of impinging on public welfare. The three million babies born in our midst each year are the results of their parents' private (let's hope) behavior. But these babies also have an impact on government policies and priorities—from the number of new classrooms that need to be built each school year to traffic and garbage crises, from environmental degradation to health priorities.

That's why government needs to get involved in the promotion of reproductive health, not just to align population policies according to national priorities, but also to help women and men achieve their own reproductive goals and choices, to improve the health and chances of survival of adults and children, and to respond to the demands of a significant segment of the population.

* * *

IN A STATEMENT, the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (RHAN), composed of 16 non-government organizations, including women's groups and reproductive health advocates, called on the Macapagal administration to recognize the need for a "strong population and development and reproductive health program (to) uphold the right of Filipino families to health and better quality of life."

This administration, the Network said, has constricted the choices made available to women and couples "to two methods only, despite claims by Department of Health officials that government will promote all Family Planning methods."

This is evident in the way the health department has re-aligned its budget, diverting money meant for contraceptive supplies to the promotion of Natural Family Planning. Concretely, it means that instead of using the money to buy "commodities" like oral contraceptive pills, injectable contraceptives, condoms, or instruments and training of personnel for vasectomy and ligation, the budget will instead be used to train counselors and trainers on the so-called "modern" method of natural family planning, and on the "standard days method."

A few months back, Sen. Juan Flavier called the DOH's attention to the fact that even if he had allocated P100 million to the DOH from his countryside development fund to be used for government projects on family planning and reproductive health, the department had yet to use the money (plus a budget of P60 million for family planning) for the purpose it was intended. Roberto Ador, executive director of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development, was quoted in the media as saying that Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit's refusal to use the budget for family planning "may not be for anything else but fear of the Church."

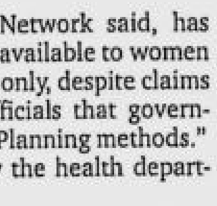
* * *

IN FAIRNESS, President Macapagal has never concealed her antipathy toward contraception. Asked during a women's forum during her second Senate campaign what her stand was on family planning, she replied bluntly: "The stand of the Church." She is, if anything, consistent on this matter.

But as the RHAN statement avers: "The President has subjected all Filipinos to the beliefs of her own religion on contraception, depriving us of the right to choose healthy and productive lives. No one, not even a President, has the right to impose her personal beliefs on our citizens, especially if these drive women and girls to poverty and forced pregnancy. By limiting access...to the full range of contraceptive methods, our President imperils the future of our nation, sacrificing the lives of women and girls at the altar of her religion."

A 19th century mystery in Tayabas

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

SOMEWHERE on the outskirts of the town of Tayabas was a coconut grove that had no owner; it belonged to all and to none. Yet there was no resident of the town who did not attend to it, who did not take care of it, who did not improve it, and yet its owner was not of this world. If a stone crumbled, it was replaced; if a tree was twisted, it was set aright; if a vine started to grow on a trunk, it was removed. If there was nothing to fix, the people would remove their hats, make the sign of the cross and murmur a prayer. It was called the Coconut Grove of Agonies, and the owner was the image that was venerated in the hermitage of that name.

The Coconut Grove of Agonies! Surely a name like that hides a mystery synthesizing some legend of the country. But no one seemed to know of any legend, only that the products were employed for the benefit of the hermitage and from time to time enough oil was extracted to light a lamp continuously to the sublime Mother of Pain.

In 1775 when the traveler Juan Guerra set out at dawn for the hermitage, he met the couple who took care of it but they had no information to offer. The heavy leaves of a door that was profusely studded creaked open to reveal the interior of the sanctuary. It was composed of a small cloister, a modest presbyter and the sacristy that occupied a space to the right of the presbyter. Four windows with panes of shells and crystals on the walls, the altar with the image of the Dolorosa and a silver lamp that burned in front of her completed the modest temple. On the door was a small bronze bell that announced the afternoon prayers every day and pealed sonorously on Fridays for the sacrosanct sacrifice that since time immemorial is celebrated on that day to commemorate the grief of Mary. On Fridays a great number of the faithful flocked to the hermitage.

Guerra tells us that he knelt at the foot of the presbyter and "when I arose after hearing the priest pronounce the last word of the stirring gospel of the day, I looked at the image, admiring the proportions of the carving, the finish of the details, the excellence of the lines but more than anything the profound expression of sorrow that the artist had managed to endow the Madre Dolorosa. Studying the details of the sculpture, I saw an object that was at her feet and realized it was a walking cane. Asking permission to examine it I found it to be a staff of command. In its rich hilt, a cipher was roughly chiseled that according to the priest was also found on the gold chalice as well as the silver sanctuary lamp and an inscription under that said: 8 of January 1720."

Guerra continues:

'One afternoon while sitting with my friend on the azotea of his house, a procession passed where the participants all appeared to be unmaginably old. Most Filipinos in the area appeared to live to 80 or 90 years and according to another guest, he even knew of one who was believed to be 118 and was known as *'el matanda de la ermita'* who lived in the barrio of Cotta, two leagues from Tayabas. Hurrying to the tribunal in the Casa Real to trace the ancient, I was informed that unfortunately the old man had died the previous year. I despaired of finding an answer to the mystery.

"However, the officer in charge offered the information that the old man had a special predilection for some ruins located on the banks of the river that I immediately took off to see. The ruins were covered by bushes, ferns, moss and demonstrated in their ancient walls the signs of a long-ago fire. Over some smoke-streaked and perforated bricks an iron cannon of great gauge rested. Rust covered its rough surface and in its chipped mouth the green eyes of lizards shone in the sunlight.

"The old man, I was told, would sit on the cannon and pass many hours staring into the distance. Was someone he loved lost in one of the Moro raids? I was never to find out or what the connection if any there may have been with the cipher in the hermitage. The ruins of the bulwark of Cotta and its cannon rusted from disuse were silent witnesses to the history of the incendiary torch of the Moro piracy.

"Soon it came time to move on and at noon of the day, the *gobernadorcillo* of Sariaya and *principales* arrived at the Casa Real to accompany us. We left for Sariaya together with the mayor who had offered me a seat in his carriage which I accepted. On April 1 at four in the afternoon, 16 *cuadrilleros* on horseback led the way armed with lances, followed by more than 200 *principales* of Tayabas and Sariaya to the tune of a marching band.

"We passed the railing of the convent and entered the solid bridge that rises over the River Alitao. It divides the poblacion of Muntingbayan, the first barrio on the road towards Sariaya. In that barrio on the right side of the road, the massive ruins of a chapel are found. The solidity of the work, all the magnificent bricks and the expanse of the nave made me feel the waste since it appeared that with a little work the edifice could be rehabilitated."

Lisa

YOUNG BLOOD

A.M.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MOMENTS before we march to Edsa to call for the ouster of our corrupt President, Joseph Estrada, Lisa comes to us, seriousness written all over her face. "If you are ever harassed, or arrested, or taken away by the police, here's a number you can call," she tells us.

I write the number on a piece of tissue paper and tuck it in my wallet. It gives me a tingle of danger to have the phone number of the Commission on Human Rights.

Lisa moves away, and I get down on the hot cement and trace her footsteps. She joins her friends with the megaphones and the banners painted in red.

She doesn't know me. I lose myself in the crowd. I drown in the sea of ten thousand people. I keep close behind them and hear her voice cracking over the speakers.

In the underbelly of Edsa, I buy a book titled "Mao Zedong and Andres Bonifacio: The Real Heroes of the Philippine Revolution." I hold my hand against the sun when I see her take the stage and speak out against Estrada.

At night I read the book and hide it under my pillow. I learn words and phrases like "revisionism," "bureaucrat-capitalism," "feudalism," "neocolonialism," "democratic socialism," "American imperialism," "bourgeois intellectualism" etc. They bounce in my head like flashes in the dark.

I've never seen Lisa wear anything but red. She has talked to me around four times already, but I wonder if she remembers. "Do you want to join the rally?" were the first words she ever spoke to me. She said it like she were asking for a date.

When classes begin, I can hear their shouts over chalk-dust air and see their banners floating like butterflies through the windows. I watch from the sides of my eyes and try to catch a sight of her.

When I sign their signature sheets protesting tuition increases, the war in Mindanao and the oil price hikes, I wonder if I could ever be as brave as she wants me to be. But then she's already talking to someone else, asking if he wanted to join, and I feel a dark cloud of jealousy floating at the back of my head.

Taking the bus home, I can see angry words written on the walls: *"Joma, salot ng bayan"* and *"Komunismo, kontra Kristo."* I pull down the curtains that line the bus windows and whisper her name to myself.

Articles in the Philippine Collegian written by Lisa Tangco join Mao Zedong and Andres Bonifacio, Marx and Sison under my pillow or under my bed.

I look at the posters on campus and wonder if it's her hand on the brush, bold and red, painting the struggle, the revolution. I read on, drawn to her, wondering if I could ever summon the courage to cross the line and join her.

Then we would make love in countryside tents and read Lenin under the flashes of oppressive government mortars. We would dance naked in mountain hideouts and hold hands when we farm the fields, giving honor to the peasant movement. And when all people are equal, I would get down on my knees and ask her to marry me.

Lisa flashes by like lightning. They march down a road carrying paint cans. They mark the asphalt with bold, impassioned strokes. I watch from three floors up and see how the sun catches her hair.

I write her name in the dust that gathers on windshields. Under it, I write the word "ideology," tracing out each letter carefully. Then, I'd wipe it away, suddenly frightened, suddenly looking over my shoulder to see if anyone saw me.

On Valentine's Day—a red-letter day—I seal up all my feelings inside an envelope and feel clumsy and stupid but totally honest. I don't sign what's inside. I don't want her to know who I am. My plan is to give it to her, and disappear from her sight forever.

Lisa struggles, for she fights for the people. I, too, struggle—to find that one spot inside of me that will change the world.

I find her friends manning a booth in another signature campaign calling for an across-the-board increase in workers' wages. Some of them are down on the floor, painting banners, each brushstroke stark and heart-felt. Some are talking to people like me, explaining things, reading out from pamphlets that I recognize.

I sign quickly, and then ask if Lisa's around. They look at me strangely, suspiciously. "Lisa's not here," someone finally says. "She had to go home to the province for a little while."

Something in me feels dead. I jam the letter into my back pocket and start to walk away, hoping no one can see my eyes.

I am ready to disappear when suddenly someone comes up to me and touches my shoulder. I turn around to face him.

"Hey, are you going to join the rally?" he asks me. And I do. I join them on the floor, with their paintbrushes that bleed red. In my sadness and with hands that should have been hers, I paint with bold strokes, painting the struggle, the revolution.

* * *

Here is Lisa, months later, on the cover of the Philippine Collegian. She is dead. She was gunned down in the mountains of Cagayan during an encounter between the New People's Army and government troops. She had gone underground on that very same day I wrote her the letter, which I still keep, like a treasure, beside Mao and Bonifacio, Marx and Sison.

It is the fourth Monday of July, and the President is going to give the traditional State of the Nation Address. Moments before we march to Congress, her friends come to me. They look serious as they slip a piece of paper into my hand and whisper, "If you're ever harassed, or arrested, or kidnapped by the police, call this number." I hide the number deep inside my wallet, right beside that piece of tissue paper that I still keep.

Some days, I imagine seeing her, flashing by me, like a flame, like a fire. And I feel a deep emptiness inside. And in those days, I stare at her picture in the Collegian showing her almond eyes, her dark skin. I stare at it for a long time and feel lonely.

She never fought for me.

A.M., 18, is a student of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Why is the AFP picking on Gabriela?

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THE WOMEN'S coalition, Gabriela, is on its 18th year of existence. Presidents have come and gone while we have remained steadfast in our commitment to fight for the rights and welfare of women.

But it is only today that have we seen a number of our members killed or murdered, not to mention those who have been maimed, tortured, abused, gone missing or detained. All this under the administration headed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who once proudly proclaimed yourself to be a Gabriela member.

To cite the most recent cases:

In Oriental Mindoro, last May 8, residents of Barangay Ilog, San Teodoro, were awakened by gunfire. The next day, the body of Rodriga Apolinar was found dead in her house, lying next to the corpses of her husband and her 8-year-old child, Nina Angela.

In the same municipality about a month ago, Manuela Albarillo was dragged outside her home by men wearing military uniforms. She and her husband were repeatedly shot at close range. Her children are now in mortal fear of their lives.

A few months ago in Arakan Valley, Cotabato, Benjaline Hernandez, who belonged to a Gabriela network organization, was killed while she and three others were conducting a follow-up investigation of a massacre in the same community. They were shot close range even as they begged for their lives.

Yes, Madame President, they are shooting Gabriela members, and we have reason to believe from accounts of witnesses that "they" are your soldiers and officers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Why are the members of the AFP afflicted with what seems like a "hate Gabriela" syndrome? Why are they picking on our organization, which, modesty aside, is the largest women's organization the country has ever had?

This is too obvious even during Gabriela's fact-finding and relief missions. A case in point was what happened recently in Mindoro Oriental, the same area where the killings occurred. Upon arrival in Calapan City on June 24, Gabriela's group of 20 staff, medical and dental personnel, was kept under close watch by the 204th Brigade led Col. Jovito Palparan. Despite the fact that courtesy calls were made to local government officials, the military men were constantly interfering with Gabriela's activities, harassing them and videotaping their every move.

—SR. MARY JOHN MANANZAN,
chairperson, Gabriela,
35 Scout Delgado St.,
Brgy. Laging Handa,
Quezon City

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The myth of Asian modesty

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"*YABANG!*" Filipinos often hurl that comment at Westerners. It can be a furious invective that translates, "You arrogant fool!"

We stereotype the Westerner as being "too aggressive" (and therefore arrogant). Conversely, we like to believe that we Asians are, by nature, modest.

I'd question those assumptions. Let's start by looking at instances when we label Westerners as being "*yabang*." I'm going to give a concrete example here, using a common story that comes from Filipinos new to the United States. They go into a store and ask the sales clerk for a certain item. The clerk checks the computer and goes, "Sorry, man, but I don't have that in stock right now, but hey, I can order one for you if you want."

Many Filipinos have told me variations of that story and cited them as "proof" that the Westerner is "*yabang*." "Imagine," they point out, "he's only a clerk and he talks like he owns the store. And calling me 'hey man' and offering to get me the item. *Yabang*."

What we see here is a misinterpretation of the clerk's self-confidence, and typical American go-getter business attitude. When they offer to order the item for you, it's because they know it makes good business sense, rather than have you buy from someone else.

Contrast all that with a local store, where the clerk will give you a blank look and say, "*Wala po kami*." She's being proper in saying "we" don't have it, rather than "I." She's also being polite, using the honorific "*po*." She's as respectful and as modest as Asians want her to be, but she's also a liability for the business. There's a chance the store actually has the item but she doesn't know it. And if the store doesn't have the item, she's not about to order it for you. She knows she's "only" a clerk and she's living up to what her defined role is: meek, modest and hopelessly helpless.

Let me give one more example to drive home my point. Your son comes home with his bride-to-be, a Westerner or an Asian-American. She walks up to you, offers to shake your hand and goes, "Pleased to meet you, Dad." Oops. You think, "Disrespectful. The nerve, this is the first time we're meeting and she wants to call me dad. *Yabang*."

Then you console yourself by remembering your neighbor's story about his first meeting with his American son-in-law. "Hi there, Es-tay-ban," the fool said and, not content, went on to ask, while chewing gum, "Gosh, Es-tay-ban's a mouthful. Can I call you Steve?"

Get the picture? The clash of values isn't really over modesty. It's a clash between Asian feudal values that emphasize rigid hierarchies and Western capitalism's emphasis on egalitarianism and individual worth.

In the West, you are what you make of yourself. In Asia, you are never "you" as an individual; instead you are defined by your class, caste, age or sex with strict behavioral norms attached to your ascribed station in life. Modesty is imposed on those who are deemed inferior. As for those who consider themselves above the unwashed masses, we see a terrible immodesty, many times more *mayabang* than that of the Westerner.

Asians flaunt wealth and power. For the Filipino, this is usually done by over-dressing, decking himself with what he thinks are the symbols of wealth: flashy jewelry, brand-name accessories.

We live on, and demand adulation. Think of the long introductions for an "honorable" and "esteemed" guest speaker, using a biodata prepared by who else but the guest speaker. The introduction may as well be a eulogy, as you read out the guest's credentials and achievements, from graduating valedictorian in kindergarten to his having eight (official) children.

It is amazing how this training to be immodest starts early in life. You see it even in school among the children of the rich and powerful, in the way they dress, in the latest electronic gadgets they carry. These kids don't walk, they strut around. Neither do they talk; they boast, they order people around.

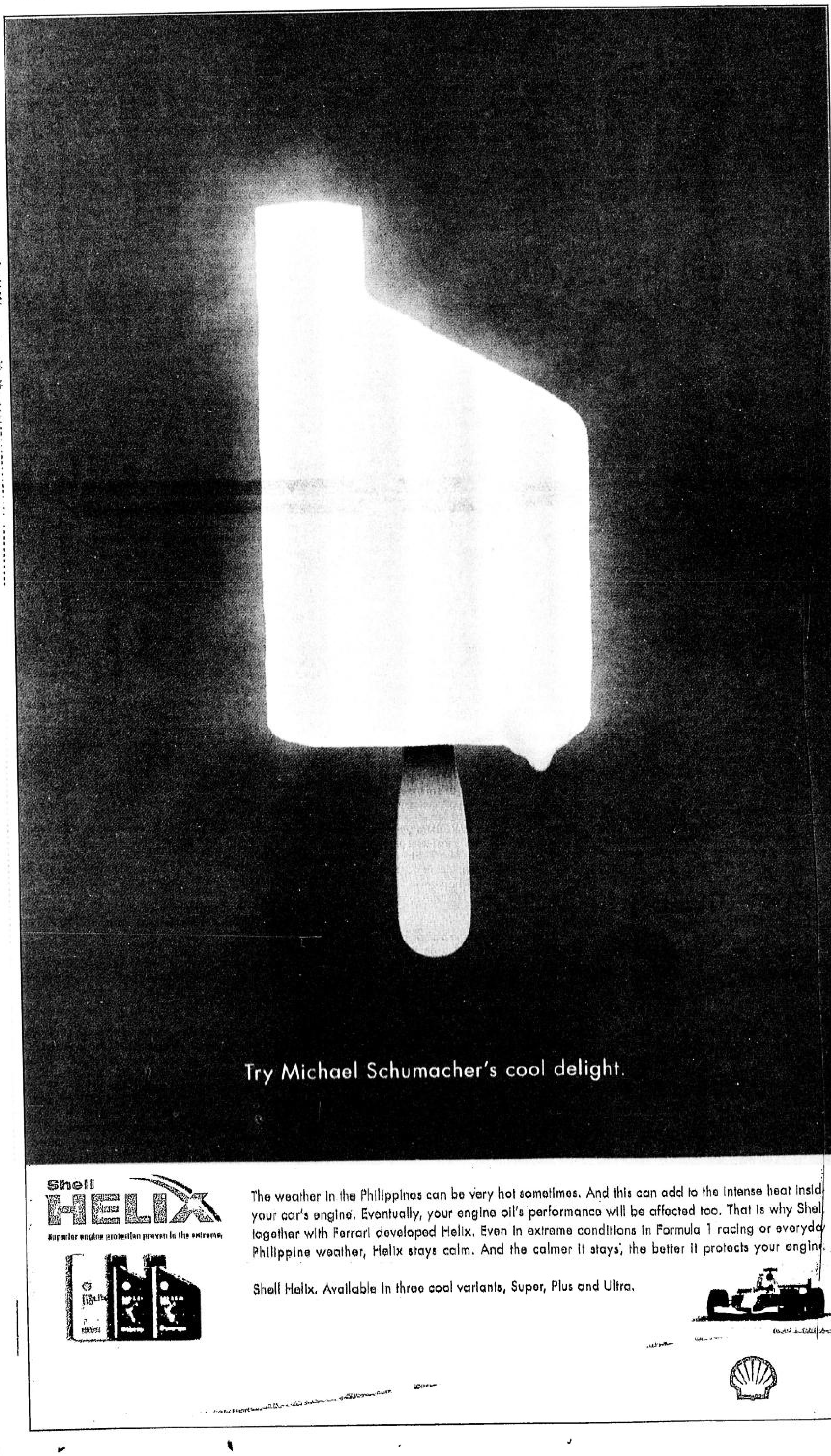
Our feudal values demand that we brag about who we are and what our achievements are, which is why politicians never let us forget that it is through their largesse (even if with our taxpayers' money) that you have a newly paved street, or a hospital, all named after the politician's grandfather or mother. The cult of the personality, so rampant in Asia, belies our claims to modesty. Don't think of North Korea. Think of how we allow ourselves to be tormented by the faces of incumbent presidents on mass rail transit cards, on postage stamps, on our currency.

The swagger, the insolent voice, the conspicuous consumption of wealth are all part of an assertion of privilege, a long-playing ritual to intimidate others into "modest" silence. In countries where such a culture dominates, like the Philippines, progress is slow. There is little room for innovation or creativity since individual merit is rarely recognized. The only way up, besides being born into privilege, is to join the circle of sycophants that sing daily praise to those in power.

Our language says it all. We do not have words for "modest" and "modesty" in Tagalog, except in the sense of how a woman is supposed to behave. We do have a word for "humble," *mapagpakumbaba*, which emphasizes the way we are supposed to lower, even prostrate ourselves, in relation to the powerful. Alas, we are a nation humbled and hobbled.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net



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DANIEL PEARL KILLING

4 Islamic militants convicted

SAEED: We'll see who will die first, me or the authorities who have arranged the death sentence for me. REUTERS

HYDERABAD—Four Islamic militants were convicted Monday in the kidnap-slaying of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, and the British-born chief defendant was sentenced to death. The three others received 25 year sentences.

Pakistani authorities braced for a violent reaction by Islamic extremists, already angry over President Pervez Musharraf's support for the United States in the war against terrorism.

Judge Ali Ashraf Shah handed down the verdict against chief defendant Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and the others—Salman Saqib, Fahad Naseem and Shaikh Adil—in the heavily guarded jail where the trial was held after it was moved from Karachi for security reasons. Defense lawyers said they would appeal.

In a statement read to reporters by his lawyer, Saeed said, "we'll see who will die first, me or the authorities who have arranged the death sentence for me."

"Musharraf should know that Almighty Allah is there and can get his revenge," said Saeed, who was moved to the prison's death row along with 79 other condemned inmates. "Now the jihad (holy war) between Islam and non-Muslims is going on and everybody is showing whether he is in favor of Islam or in favor of the non-believers."

The defendants were also collectively fined 2.5 million rupees ($32,000). Chief prosecutor Raja Quereshi said the money would go to Pearl's widow Mariane and their infant son, who was born after his father was killed.

Seven more suspects, including those who apparently killed Pearl, remain at large.

The 38-year-old journalist disappeared Jan. 23 in Karachi while researching links between Pakistani militants and Richard C. Reid, who was arrested in December on a flight from Paris to Miami with explosives in his shoes. A videotape received by US diplomats in February confirmed that Pearl was dead.

"We continue to mourn Danny Pearl," said Steven Goldstein, vice president of Dow Jones & Co., parent company of The Wall Street Journal. "And we continue to hope that everyone responsible for his kidnapping and murder will be brought to justice. Today's verdict is one step in that direction."

In London, the British government welcomed the verdicts but opposed the death sentence for Saeed. "Although we support suspected terrorists being brought to justice, it is well known that we oppose the death penalty in all circumstances," a Foreign Office spokesperson said on customary condition of anonymity.

AP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 16, 2002
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 7:1-9
Gospel: Mt 11:20-24

Jesus began to denounce the cities in which he had performed most of his miracles, because the people there did not change their ways, "Alas for you Chorazin and Bethsaida! If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, the people there would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I assure you, for Tyre and Sidon it will be more bearable on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? You will be thrown down to the place of the dead! For if the miracles which were performed in you had taken place in Sodom, it would still be there today! But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Commentary

Chorazin and Bethsaida: these cities were the seats of higher schools of religion but had not received the Gospel. The Philippines, home to the biggest Christian population in Asia, has been reported to be also one of the most corrupt societies in this continent. Based on experience we see that the gospel message, proclaimed as serious commitment to life realities, is better welcomed by those who live an outside-the-faith type of attitude than by those who have received and now defend the faith as part of a family or social tradition. At times many atheists seem to be more sensitive and committed to the demands of the Gospel than those Christians who reduce the following of Jesus to just participation in worship and acts of piety. This denunciation is a challenge not a condemnation.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE: SUMMARY PROCEDURE)—Action for forcible entry and detainer--In actions for forcible entry and detainer, the main issue is possession de facto, independently of any claim of ownership or possession de jure that either party may set forth in his pleading. As incidents of the main issue of possession de fact, the inferior court can decide the questions of (a) whether or not the relationship between the parties is one of landlord and tenant; (b) whether or not there is a lease contract between the parties, the period of such lease contract and whether or not the lease contract has already expired; (c) the just and reasonable amount of the rent and the date when it will take effect; (d) the right of the tenant to keep the premises against the will of the landlord; and (e) if the defendant has built on the land a substantial and valuable building and there is no dispute between the parties as to the ownership of the land and the building, their rights according to the Civil Code. In an unlawful detainer case, the only issue is whether the defendant has unlawfully withheld possession of the premises after the expiration or termination of its right to hold possession under any contract, express or implied. Thus, when the relationship of lessor and lessee is established in an unlawful detainer case, any attempt to the parties to inject the question of ownership into the case is futile, except insofar as it might throw light on the right of possession. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 136080, January 18, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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*Angelo J.T., Bruce H.M., McGuire J.A., et al. Antihistamine Efficacy Revisited. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2001, 107:362-374.

Nigerian protesters threaten to undress

ESCRAVOS, Nigeria—Unarmed village women holding 700 ChevronTexaco workers inside a southeast Nigeria oil terminal let 200 of the men go Sunday, but threatened a traditional and powerful shaming gesture if the others try to leave—removing their own clothes.

"Our weapon is our nakedness," said Helen Odeworitse, 49, a representative of the women in the extraordinary seven-day-old protest at ChevronTexaco's giant Escravos terminal.

Most Nigerian tribes consider displays of nudity by wives, mothers or grandmothers as a damning act of protest that shames those at whom it is aimed.

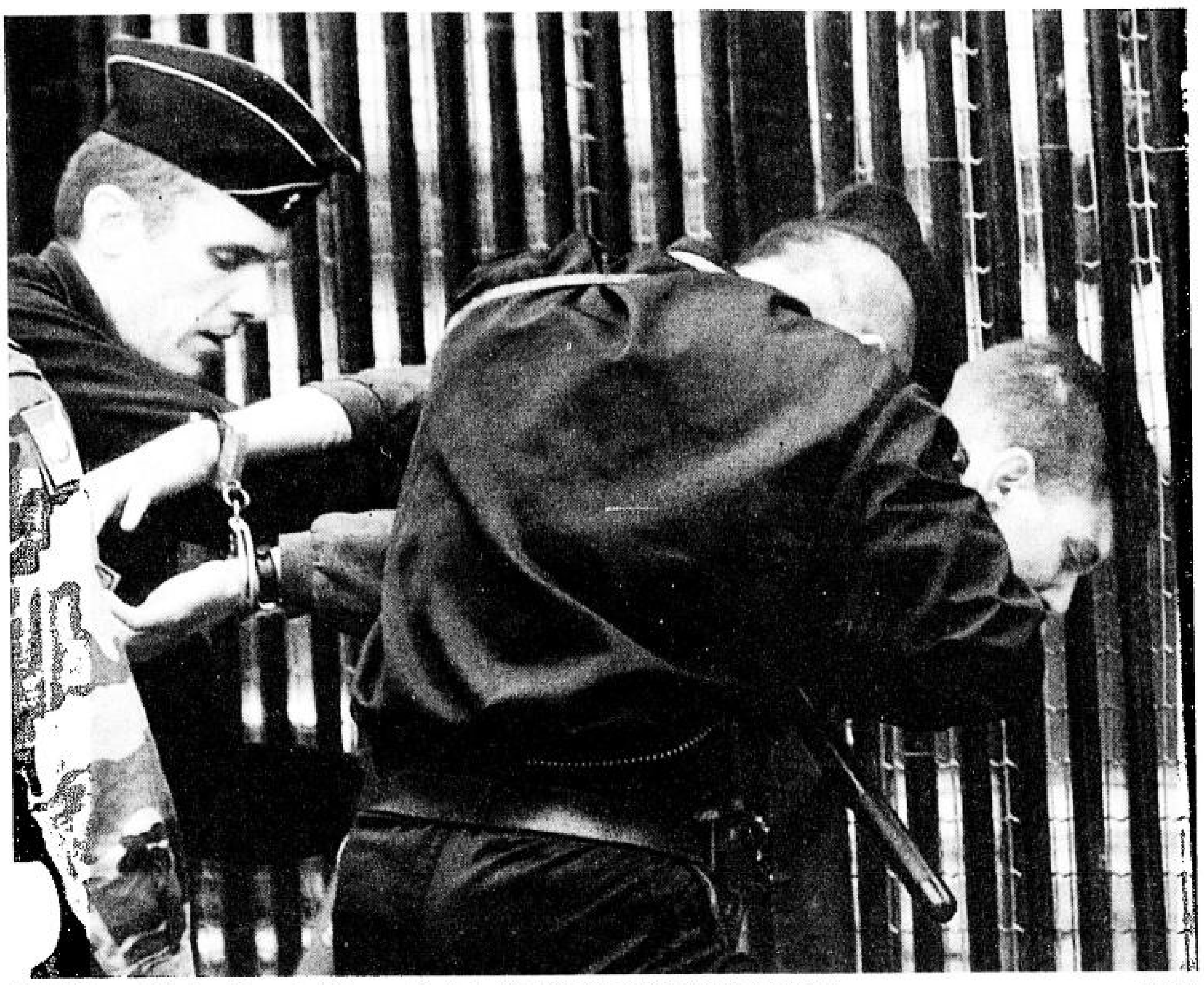
About 600 women are holding the facility, and range in age from 30 to 90—with the core group being married women aged 40 or older.

"This is not a blue film. This is an abomination," Odeworitse explained of the nudity threat.

The takeover began Monday when 150 women managed to sneak into the company's Escravos pipeline terminal. They have blocked the airstrip, helipad and port that provide the only exit routes from the facility, which is surrounded by rivers and swamps.

The women, most from the nearby communities of Ugborodo and Arutan, want the oil giant to hire their sons and use some of the region's oil riches to develop their remote and run-down communities—most of which lack even electricity. *AP*

Spectators foil slay try on Chirac



POLICE arrest Maxime Brunerie, 25, a neo-Nazi who fired his rifle at the French president. REUTERS

PARIS—French officials credited spectators and police for thwarting an assassination attempt on President Jacques Chirac by a neo-Nazi who pulled a rifle from a guitar case during the annual Bastille Day parade.

The man fired at least once from a fully loaded rifle as Chirac, riding in an open-top jeep about 50 yards away, was reviewing troops at the start of a pomp-filled military parade to celebrate France's national holiday Sunday.

Cries of alarm sprang out from members of the crowd along the tree-lined edge of Paris' Champs-Elysees, near the Arc de Triomphe. At least one spectator grabbed the gun and turned it upwards. Caught by police, the man tried to turn the gun on himself.

Paris police said the man was 25 years old and a member of "neo-Nazi and hooligan" groups. LCI television and a police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, both identified him as Maxime Brunerie.

LCI reported that he was once connected to the far-right group of Bruno Megret, a former lieutenant of National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. In last year's municipal elections, the man ran for city councilman under Megret's party, the National Republican Movement, Liberation newspaper reported.

The police officer said the gunman was also linked to a far-right student group, the Group Union Defense, and had a history of psychiatric problems. The man was transferred to a police psychiatric facility for testing, where he remained Monday morning.

"I saw a guy with a gun," said a tourist, Mohamed Chelali, who told LCI television that he and others in the crowd helped subdue the man.

Another man, identified as Jacques Weber, knocked the rifle out of the attacker's hand and "I threw myself forward, grabbed the gun and then everyone started calling: 'Police, police,'" Chelali said. "They took a long time to come, maybe two to three minutes."

Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy told a news conference he had congratulated in person both the police and a "courageous spectator" who thwarted the attack.

It was not immediately clear if the shot came near Chirac or if it went into the air as police converged on the gunman.

"It was an assassination attempt," said a government minister, Patrick Devedjian. "He fired a first shot, which was turned away, then he was overcome and tried to turn the weapon against himself."

"He admitted he wanted to kill the president," added Devedjian, who is the minister in charge of local liberties.

When asked by reporters if the gunman was trying to kill her husband, Bernadette Chirac said, "yes, clearly."

Paris police said the gun was a .22-caliber rifle. The guitar case was brown. Officers in civilian clothes put both in the van that took away the man, who wore a gray hooded top.

Sarkozy said the rifle was bought last week and was fully loaded with five bullets.

The attempt on Chirac comes as several European countries are facing a resurgence in support for far-right groups. They have won votes by playing on fears of immigration, crime and economic stagnation. *AP*

Hindu nationalists call strike in Kashmir to protest massacre

JAMMU, India—Shops and businesses closed in the winter capital of India's troubled Jammu and Kashmir state on Monday in a strike called by Hindu nationalists to protest against the massacre of 27 slum dwellers by unidentified gunmen.

But police said the shutdown in the mainly Hindu southern portion of the Muslim majority state, called by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), would likely end by afternoon.

"Most of the businesses and stores in the city are closed now but people are getting used to these incidents. They can't stop their lives," police official Vijay Kumar told Reuters. "I think by midday or afternoon most will reopen." Police were out in force on the streets to prevent trouble after the Saturday raid on Hindus in a slum that stoked tensions between nuclear armed India and Pakistan, locked in a military standoff over disputed Kashmir.

Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani had said he would outline the government's response to the attack in parliament on Monday, but both houses adjourned until Tuesday without Advani appearing.

No militant group has claimed responsibility for the assault and New Delhi has so far declined to assign blame.

Jammu police said the latest attack could be the work of Pakistan-based Muslim guerrilla groups fighting New Delhi's rule in Indian Kashmir. India has long accused Pakistan of stoking the revolt by arming militants, charges Islamabad has denied.

The disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir has been the trigger of two of three wars between India and Pakistan since independence from Britain in 1947.

Jammu residents had said they were unsure the strike call would get a big response because those massacred were migrant laborers, not locals, and it was not immediately known if the rest of the region outside Jammu, a city of 800,000, observed the strike.

Jammu travel agency owner Subhash Sharma, who defied the strike, said: "We can't shut down business every time. What will it achieve? Will the government stop this sort of thing?"

Strike calls in the past, usually issued by Kashmiri separatist groups fighting Indian rule, have seen incidents of stone-throwing and burning of tires on roads to enforce a shutdown.

The BJP strike did not apply to the rest of the state, which has been racked by a Muslim separatist revolt since 1989.

Saturday's attack on slum dwellers by gunmen, some disguised as Hindu holy men, came nearly two months after an attack on an Indian Army camp near Jammu took India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

That raid, which India blamed on Pakistan-based guerrillas, left more than 30 dead.

Pakistan, which has pledged to stop militants crossing into Indian Kashmir, condemned the killings and said the weekend attack was aimed at destabilizing South Asia. *Reuters*

Sino-Malays offered cash to procreate

KUALA LUMPUR—Fearful about low birth rates among the country's ethnic Chinese population, a Malaysian group is offering instant cash rewards to Chinese Malaysians who have more babies, an official said Monday.

Ethnic Chinese couples with at least three children will receive 2,000 ringgit ($526) for each subsequent offspring they produce, said Wong Sai Hou, adviser of the Malaysian Federation of Kong Sew Associations, an ethnic Chinese public coalition.

The federation plans to launch its baby boom drive on Aug. 25, with a catchy Mandarin-language slogan that translates: "One Child is Too Little, Two Carries No Weight, Three is Still Odd, Four Deserves an Incentive, Five is Slightly Better, Six is Just Ideal."

"We're not exactly asking for mass production of babies," Wong said. "But we need to reverse the decline in our population growth, and we believe this program will help create awareness among Chinese couples."

Ethnic Chinese now comprise 26 percent of Malaysia's 23 million people, after plunging from 37 percent in the 1950s. Based on current birth rates, the figure will fall to 18 percent by 2020, studies estimate. *AP*

Prosecutors seek 15-year jail term for Suharto son

JAKARTA—Prosecutors on Monday demanded a 15-year jail term for the youngest son of ex-dictator Suharto, surprising many who expected him to face a death sentence for allegedly ordering the assassination of a Supreme Court judge.

Several experts immediately voiced dismay, with the head of a leading legal watchdog group calling the recommendation "a joke."

Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra is accused of masterminding the murder of Syafiuddin Kartasasmita, a Supreme Court judge, who sentenced him to 18 months in prison in 2000 for a multimillion-dollar real estate scam.

"The defendant . . . is guilty of ordering or persuading (others) to murder the judge," said the chief prosecutor, Hasan Madani.

Madani explained that prosecutors had opted against recommending a harsher sentence because the defendant was young and had a family to support. They also said Tommy had been "polite" during the trial.

Prosecutors argued that the evidence against Tommy was overwhelming, citing the testimony of witnesses, weapons found at Tommy's hideouts, documents linking Tommy to the crime and bank statements showing that the former playboy transferred tens of thousands of dollars to the killers.

Tommy, who turned 40 on Monday, has denied any wrongdoing. If found guilty, he could theoretically receive the death penalty despite the prosecutors' more lenient demand.

The court is scheduled to decide later this month whether to convict him.

"There was a general expectation that he would have been sentenced to death or least life in prison," Marzuki Darusman, a former attorney general said

"The recommended sentence suggests to me that there has been a lot of effort to come to a compromise."

Muhammad Asrun, executive director of a legal watchdog group, Judicial Watch Indonesia, said the prosecutors' demands showed that "the system is corrupt."

"Many people will be upset and think this trial was a joke," he said.

Kartasasmita was murdered in July 2001 by two gunmen on motorbikes, who were later arrested and claimed Tommy had paid them to kill the judge.

The assassination occurred when Tommy was a fugitive. He went missing for a year after his graft verdict was announced and was captured in November 2001 after a high-profile manhunt.

His current trial started on March 19.

Tommy, considered untouchable during his father's 32-year reign, was the first member of the superrich former first family to be convicted. In 2000, corruption charges against his father Suharto, 82, were dropped after he claimed to be too ill to face trial.

During Suharto's dictatorship, which ended after mass pro-democracy protests in 1998, Tommy was Indonesia's golden boy who built himself an international business empire worth an estimated $800 million.

Suharto lavished favors upon Tommy, granting him control over the lucrative trade in cloves—the spice that's added to perfumed cigarettes favored by millions of Indonesian smokers. He was afforded massive tax breaks to import automobiles from South Korea as part of the now-defunct Timor national car project.

Tommy also ran airlines, a shipping company and hotels on the resort island of Bali. Foreign investors courted Tommy, knowing that his power and contacts as the president's son would smooth their way in the graft-ridden country. *AP*

Suhartos accused of pocketing millions of dollars on arms deals

JAKARTA—The family of former dictator Suharto pocketed hundreds of millions of dollars in the 1990s through huge markups on arms imports for the Indonesian military, a media report said Monday.

A trading company owned by Suharto's daughter Siti Hardiyanti "Tutut" Rukmana acted as the agent in the procurement of 30 British-built Hawk trainers and light attack jets between 1993 and 1995, The Jakarta Post newspaper said.

The firm inflated the original $8 million price for each jet to $30 million. This and other arms deals, including the purchase of 50 Alvis Scorpion tanks, netted Tutut a profit of over $350 million, the report said.

Air Force spokesperson Rear Marshall Imam Wahyudi declined to comment but said they were conducting a review of procurement procedures in the 1990s.

Suharto's incredibly wealthy family was heavily involved in numerous business ventures during his 32-year dictatorship, which was characterized by endemic corruption and nepotism.

In June, during a visit to the Czech Republic, President Megawati Sukarnoputri noted that markups in defense equipment purchases were "rampant" in the past.

Tutut's company has since gone out of business and she could not immediately be reached for comment.

In 2000, corruption charges against Suharto, 82, were dropped after he claimed to be too ill to face trial. Suharto was accused of embezzling $600 million from a number of charities during his 32-year rule.

His youngest son, Hutomo Mandala Putra—known as Tommy—was sentenced in 2000 to 18 months in jail for his part in a land scam. He is now on trial for allegedly ordering the assassination of the judge who handed down the sentence. *AP*

TOMMY Suharto (right) consults with his two lawyers during Monday's hearing in Jakarta. AP

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A13

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Firearms banned in gold rush area on Mt. Diwalwal

DAVAO CITY—After stopping the local government of Monkayo, Compostela Valley from shutting down the operation of small-scale miners in Mt. Diwata, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he was implementing a no-firearms zone inside the conflict-ridden gold-rush area.

Duterte said he already directed the Task Group Monkayo to disarm anybody, including Monkayo Mayor Joel Brillantes, found bringing weapons inside the mining area.

Duterte, who visited Diwalwal yesterday morning, said that there was no need for the miners to bring their firearms inside the gold-rush area because members of the Task Group Monkayo were already there to provide security.

"Except for Task Group Diwalwal— no one else can enter there carrying firearms. Mayor Brillantes doesn't have to bring security there . . . We cannot also prevent him from entering the area because he is the mayor of that place," he said.

Duterte, who was tasked by Malacañang to end the bloody conflict on Mt. Diwalwal, said the no-arms declaration also covers private guards of mining firms.

Duterte warned the miners against defying the order.

He said if the miners would not follow his order, he would recommend the closure of all the gold tunnels there.

"So behave—if it (mining) means your only existence. If you (behave)—then I...we will gladly help you. I will be happy to see you all becoming a millionaire," he said.

Duterte also said miners could already resume their operations on Mt. Diwalwal after Malacanang suspended a cease and desist order (CDO) issued by Brillantes.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo decided to stop the cease and desist order because of credibility problem on Brillantes' part being co-owner of JB Mining Corp., one of the mining firms entangled in the controversy over Mt. Diwalwal's control.

But Duterte clarified that the President's instructions still allow the extraction of ore.

Duterte said the processing of gold ore remains suspended.

Processing of gold in Mt. Diwalwal is being blamed for the rise of mercury contamination in the waterways of Compostela Valley.

Also, a two-year study conducted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Unido) and the government showed that 71.6 percent of the amalgam smelters, ball millers and other miners in and around Mt. Diwata, were suffering from "chronic mercury" intoxication.

Mercury, a highly poisonous element, is extensively used in gold processing in the area. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army launched 1,875 operations vs NPAs in Masbate province

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Government soldiers based on the island province of Oriental Mindoro have staged a total of 1,875 combat operations against the New People's Army in the past six months, according to documents from the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command based here.

"But before the leftist human rights advocates shout militarization and cause unfounded fear, we want to stress that most of the operations were routine perimeter security patrols," said Maj. Broso, Solcom spokesperson.

He described the combat operations as preemptive moves to foil the expansion program of the local communist movement in the area.

The report said the government had initiated a total of eight armed engagements against the NPA, resulting in the death of at least two rebels and undetermined number of wounded guerillas.

"The fatalities could be more than that since the NPA does not leave its dead comrades behind as much as possible," added Broso.

He said some wounded rebels could have also died because of lack of proper medical attention.

Five soldiers were listed as wounded in the report.

The report also listed a total of 219 rebel returnees and six captured NPA rebels.

The NPA initiated at least four encounters during the same period, it added.

At least 24 high-powered firearms and 25 low caliber firearms were seized from the communist rebels.

Only recently, villagers residing in Barangay Water, in the town of Baco, led soldiers to the rebels' armory.

It resulted in the recovery of assorted firearms. These included a 30-cal. machinegun with tripod, 80 rounds of ammunition, a Carbine, an improvised M-14 assault rifle, four .38-cal. revolvers, two Magnum 22 revolvers, two .22 cal. rifles, three magazines for M-14, two magazines for Carbines, one magazine for .22 assault rifles and some 500 rounds of assorted ammunition.

Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Solcom chief, said during his recent visit to the island province that residents had provided information about the rebels, a sign, he said, that the villagers longed for peace.

"They have suffered so long. What they want now is lasting peace," he told the INQUIRER. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Negros traders not keen on merger of 5 co-ops

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental businessmen are not too enthusiastic over President Macapagal Arroyo's proposal to merge the five electric cooperatives on Negros Island into one electric cooperative to bring down power rates.

Benjamin O. Calderon, executive director of the Negros Oriental Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NOCCI), recently told reporters that the businessmen would support the move if the cost of power was guaranteed to go down.

But he said the NOCCI would meet and study the implications of the plan before they decide to endorse it or not.

Last month, President Macapagal announced her plan to merge the five electric cooperatives into the Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative (Noceco), based in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, which, she said, is the best-run cooperative on the island.

"In Negros, not all the electric cooperatives there are efficient. They have to be consolidated and maybe we make the most efficient one run the rest," she had told a press conference.

Of the five electric cooperatives on Negros Island, three are based in Negros Occidental. These are the Noceco, the Central Negros Electric Cooperative and the Victorias Rural Electric Service Cooperative.

The Negros Oriental-based cooperatives are the Negros Oriental 1 Electric Cooperative (Noreco 1) and the Noreco 2.

Calderon said they have yet to look into why the President said the Noceco was the best-run cooperative on the island.

"It does not necessary mean that if they are charging the lowest rates, they are the best-run cooperative," he said.

Calderon said Ms Macapagal may just want the electric cooperatives on Negros Island to shape up. *Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Abandoned poll project blamed for precinct woes

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Members of the Abalos clan in Barangay Betag here spent much time looking for their names on the voters' list yesterday before they were able to cast their votes. The reason: Their 16 names were found in different precincts.

Just like the Golocans and Abelleras, they, too, were wondering why the Commission on Elections still retained the voters' list used in last year's local and national elections that listed family members in different precincts.

The complaint was common in this town's 150 precincts with 26,468 registered voters in 16 barangays. Otherwise, the elections were generally peaceful and orderly.

Even teachers who manned the precincts as poll clerks favored a single alphabetical listing for all registered voters of every barangay.

"The system of giving precincts separate alphabetized list of voters is confusing," Antonio Cadag, a teacher at the Longlong Elementary School here, said. "A voter who cannot find his name in one precinct might think that he is no longer a voter. 'Yun pala, his name is in the other precinct."

But lawyer Bernoulli Binayan, election officer here, said the present system is permanent unless the Comelec decides to change it.

"The voter must also be patient in looking for his name in all the precincts," he said.

Binayan admitted, however, that the Comelec's suspended precinct mapping project could have averted the confusion brought about by the present system of listing.

"The project aimed to cluster family members and neighbors in one precinct," he told the INQUIRER.

But he lamented that the project, a brainchild of Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, did not push through following the conflict among the poll body's top officials during the term of former Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo.

Binayan said the project started with the holding of a nationwide survey. He said precinct mapping is difficult to complete but it will improve the country's electoral system.

3 rebs in killing of Army colonel captured in Aurora

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Three suspected communist rebels said to belong to a large group of the New People's Army that killed an Army colonel in an ambush two years ago have been captured in Aurora province on Wednesday.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the Army's 702nd Brigade, said the three suspected guerrillas were arrested after an encounter in Barangay Ura in Dilasag, a town at the northernmost tip of Aurora.

He said the three rebels were among those who ambushed a group of soldiers in Barangays Linomot and Sta. Isabel in Jones in June 2000.

Killed in that ambush were Col. Josefino Manayao, 502nd Brigade commander, and 12 soldiers. Manayao's group came from a medical mission when it was ambushed.

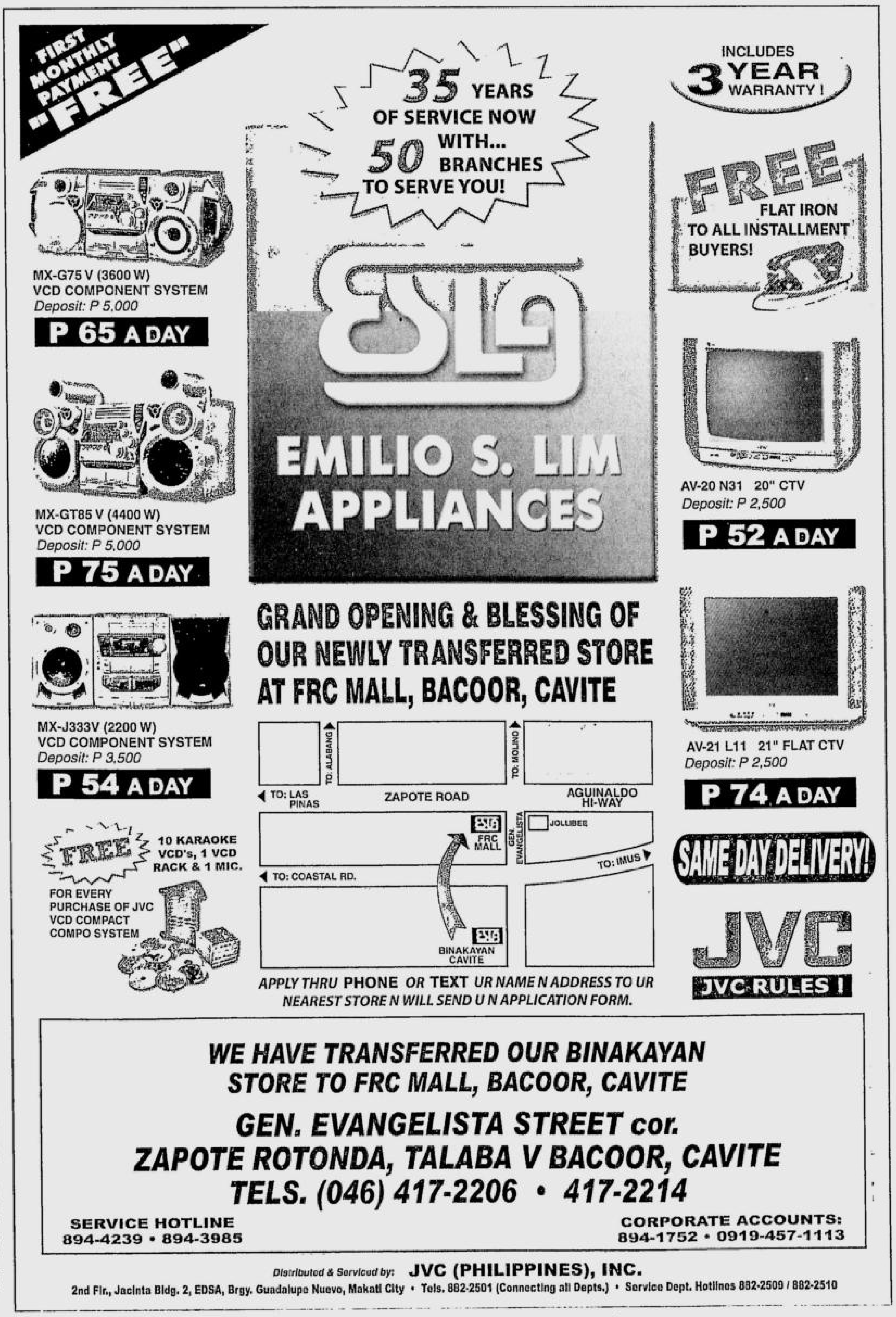
Narcise identified the captured rebels as Arnold Juego of Baler town, and Rizalino [illegible] and [illegible], both of Dilasag.

According to Narcise, the three, with four other suspected NPA rebels, were manning a checkpoint in Ura when troopers from the Army's 70th Infantry Battalion arrested them on Wednesday afternoon. The other four escaped.

Narcise said the seven guerrillas belonged to the NPA's Isabela-Quirino Front. He said a bigger group of 50 armed men was last seen in Ura on June 7 after being flushed out by Army operations in the bordering Cagayan Valley provinces since May.

According to Narcise, the same group was also responsible for the killing of Jones Mayor Jesus Sebastian Sr. on April 22 this year.

The Army reported seizing two M-16 armalite rifles, two M-14 armalite rifles, a baby armalite rifle, a garand rifle, a grenade, 32 magazines, bullets and two handheld radios from the guerrillas. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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Rights groups document 90 abuse cases against Army

OZAMIZ CITY—Human rights groups here claimed that they have uncovered at least 90 cases of rights violations committed by the military against residents of upland villages of Tangub City.

Rosebeth Bagarinao of Karapatan-Western Mindanao said the violations were monitored as the military intensified its operations against New People's Army rebels.

Bagarinao said most of the victims were farmers and their families.

Based on Karapatan's documentation, forced surrender topped the count of the 90 rights abuses with at least 38 cases. This was followed by 33 cases of grave threats, especially against members of Bayan Muna.

"In forced surrender, residents are called to an assembly, asked to sign a document and to pose for picture taking. They are then declared as NPA surrenderees," said Erlinda Cahayagan, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) here and member of the fact-finding mission.

Cahayagan said those who resisted the order, allegedly by members of the Army's 5th Infantry Battalion, were threatened with inclusion in the military's order of battle.

Bagarinao said the soldiers also destroyed property and looted homes.

There were also alleged cases of hamletting, arbitrary arrests, displacements, tortures, and illegal searches.

"The military operations (that) were directed against so-called enemies of the state are victimizing . . . innocent . . . upland villagers," Bagarinao said.

But the Army's 1st Infantry Division based in Zamboanga del Sur said if the allegations were true, then the soldiers involved should be charged.

A senior military official, however, denied the abuses.

"As far as we are concerned, we make sure that the basic rights of the people are observed," said Col. Estrellito Romero, commander of the Army's 101st Infantry Brigade.

Karapatan said it was wary of more human rights violations as more soldiers were being deployed to the hinterlands.

On Saturday, a company-size Army patrol clashed with about 20 NPA guerillas in Barangay Matugnao, Tangub City.

Two rebels were killed while two others were captured.

On Monday, two more rebels were killed in another encounter in Barangay Simasay, also in Tangub City.

In San Isidro, Davao Oriental, three suspected young female rebels were captured by soldiers in Barangay Iba on Wednesday dawn.

The captured guerrillas, aged 17 to 18, were arrested by elements of the Army's 4th Special Forces Company and members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) inside a rebel safe house.

The military said the rest of the rebels fled as soldiers and militiamen stormed the safe house.

One of those arrested was Leah Mae Jabiles, 18, a social works graduate of the Ateneo de Davao University.

The military has tagged Jabiles as a ranking official of the New People's Army's Front Committee 18 based in Lupon and San Isidro towns.

Allegedly seized from her and the two other suspected rebels were a cal. 38 revolver and communist documents. *Ryan D. Rosauro and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Irrigation project completion assured

COTABATO CITY—The foreign-funded Malitubog-Maridagao (Malmar) irrigation project, one of the government's flagship projects in Mindanao, will be completed next year.

This was the assurance given by National Irrigation Administrator Emmanuel Paras after he informed President Macapagal that sufficient funds will be allotted for the completion of the dam in December 2003.

Engr. Noldin Oyod, Malmar dam project manager, said with the assurance that funds will be released, the project, financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the Philippine government, will be completed as scheduled.

The project cost has ballooned from P2.5 billion to P3.226 billion due to rising cost of materials and the peso devaluation.

In a memorandum sent to Oyod, Paras said P766 million will be included in the agency's budget for next year to finance the completion of the Malmar project.

;Malmar aims to irrigate 10,840 hectares of farmlands and benefit 4,550 farm families in the towns of Pikit and Carmen in North Cotabato, and Pagalungan and Pagagawan in Maguindanao.

Paras said the system has been serving 5,600 hectares of new rice fields.

After President Macapagal inaugurated the dam in September last year, NIA had supplied water to 4,300 hectares of rice fields, 500 hectares more than what it had promised to irrigate.

The completion of the Malmar dam and the supply of water to 3,800 hectares of new rice lands by September 2001 were among the promises made by the President in her first state of the nation address.

Clashes between guerrillas and soldiers delayed the project, which was started in October 1989.

A Chinese construction firm continued the construction of the dam and portions of the project were completed last year despite the kidnappings of the firm's engineers and some workers.

"The peace and order situation around the project site has been favorable and normalized," according to Oyod.

President Macapagal is expected to report to the nation about the status of Malmar irrigation dam.

Oyod reported that the project is 73 percent complete and the government has already spent some P2.008 billion or 80 percent of the original budget of P2.5 billion.

Moro guerrillas had been blamed for disrupting the project. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TOOTS SOBERANO

MORE FLOOD SCENES

Bamboo rafts and boats made of the same materials find new use on the streets of Calasiao, Pangasinan as chest-deep floods wreak havoc in the town.

Gov't urged to help protect gay OFWs

BAGUIO CITY—How do you defend homosexuality in a fundamentalist country that abhors it?

At least, with care, said Leo Legaspi, chair of the activist Migrante International, that started tracking down a gay rights group he helped form in 1987 to counter a supposed crackdown against gay workers in Bahrain.

Wilhelm Soriano, administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said gays working in parlors, hotels and restaurants in Bahrain had complained to him about an impending police crackdown that could affect 2,000 Filipinos.

Most of these shops were under surveillance for allowing "illicit" relationships.

Legaspi said gay bashing and anti-gay sentiments have always been common in Middle Eastern countries because Islamic laws, as with many religions, frown upon same-sex relations.

But these countries have also experienced an economic boom that tolerated certain libertarian lifestyles, and allowed the entry of hundreds of gay workers, Legaspi said.

He said he wanted to activate a gay rights group he helped form in Saudi Arabia, because of suspicion that the crackdown was part of that country's backlash against high-salaried overseas Filipino workers.

"That's also true, you know. Many Asians are feeling the difference, and that is why we were furious at (Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and President Macapagal-Arroyo) for changing these rules," he said.

Legaspi had called for the ouster of Ms Macapagal and Sto. Tomas.

He said the government agreed to lower OFW rates in Japan to match the salaries of Chinese workers.

"This means that OFWs there used to get as high as P800, but may now be paid as low as P200, which is equivalent to what the Chinese workers are getting there," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

6 poll inspectors hurt in crash in Kabankalan

BACOLOD CITY—Thirty election personnel assigned to remote villages of Kabankalan City, 92.6 kilometers south of Bacolod City, figured in an accident, with six requiring hospitalization, about 1:45 p.m. Sunday when the vehicle they were riding in rolled backward in Sitio Bandihan, Barangay Salong.

Twenty-four of them were headed for their posts in Barangay Inapoy, and six for Barangay Panaginpinan, both hinterland villages in Kabankalan.

Six were hospitalized while the rest suffered from abrasions, Kabankalan election registrar Socorito Salon said Sunday.

The inspectors were on board a Canter truck.

The truck rolled backwards when the driver failed to shift gears as he was negotiating a steep road.

Rushed to the Gumercindo Garcia Memorial Hospital in Kabankalan were Amy Hudierez who had a leg injury; Alama Portugalete, who suffered abrasions; Roberto Zayco Jr., who had a head injury; Frerul Gacho, who had a leg injury; Milcah Sumagaysay, who had to be given oxygen due to difficulty in breathing; and Lilibeth Maquie, who had an injury in the right leg.

Salon said the city of Kabankalan shouldered the hospital expenses of the injured.

The Comelec has also started finding replacements for the injured inspectors to man the election precincts they were assigned to supervise. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Erap pal sued for chemical smuggling

ZAMBOANGA CITY--The Department of Justice has formally filed charges against former President Joseph Estrada's friend Lepeng Wee and seven others, including three Malaysian nationals, for alleged importation of toxic substances.

The accused allegedly smuggled 39 drums of highly toxic chemicals into the Port of Zamboanga from Malaysia in June 2000.

Aside from Wee, also charged were Malaysian nationals Ang Beng Ean, Sim Kwan Kean and Tan Nge Foo, Winfred Caoile, Nancy Lim, Gajar Munong and Corazon Motomal.

The accused, supposedly engaged in a furniture and foam business in Zamboanga City, allegedly imported the chemicals without paying customs duties and taxes, and without the approval of health authorities.

A bail bond of P160,000 was recommended for each accused for both cases.

The filing of the cases was approved by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito R. Zuno.

The House Committee on Good Government had called three congressional hearings on the matter. *Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Clark execs shut store down

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Officials of the Clark Development Corp. on Sunday suspended the operations of a duty-free shop for allegedly selling expired imported goods.

Emmanuel Angeles, Clark Development Corp. (CDC) president and chief executive officer, padlocked the shop and the warehouse of the DFS Sports Unlimited on Clark's Claro M. Recto Avenue shortly before noon on Sunday, pending further investigation.

Angeles was accompanied by Ruben Rodriguez, CDC security chief, and several CDC policemen who enforced the closure order.

Before reporters, Angeles turned furious when the store manager, Aurora Singson, refused to open the warehouse for inspection.

While the store did not carry expired products on its shelves on Sunday, he said a report by the Bureau of Food and Drugs was an initial basis to close the store for now and "immediately protect the consumers."

The BFAD said DFS violated Republic Act 3730 or the law that protects consumers from defective, spoiled or expired products.

The closure of DFS came after TV network GMA-7, through the show "Emergency," exposed the store's sales of expired imported items and the tampering of expiration dates.

The expose' was based on the disclosure of Queenie Balahadia, a former DFS employee. Two more workers confirmed Balahadia's claims.

Balahadia said the management ordered the workers to erase the dates of the products, especially milk, chocolates, beverages, canned goods and seasonings. Workers used acetone to erase the dates.

Unsuspecting buyers were duped because new price tags were overlain on the space for the expiry dates, she said.

It was not known how long the DFS had done the supposed malpractice. Rodriguez said the BFAD team at Clark inspects stores every month. He said this was the first time DFS was caught.

In 1997, the CDC also closed the Marshall duty-free store for the same violation. Marshall eventually closed on the heels of the 1997 Asian currency crisis.

From as much as 30 duty-free stores in 1997, only eight duty-free stores, including DFS, operate here. The rest have closed shop due to poor sales and allegations of smuggling.

Depending on the findings, he said the company would face stiff sanctions or permanent closure. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and the Western section of Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Rains	HI 18°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 35°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 35°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 34°	Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	[illegible]

Compiled by Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/05/16/02

Execs lament fund lack in effort to save Expo

By Tonette Orejas

PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Saving the P3.5-billion Expo Pilipino from being swept by floodwaters is a tough task.

Emmanuel Angeles, president and chief executive officer of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC), said the management and the operation of the 60-hectare park have not been turned over by the National Development Corp. despite the CDC's repeated requests after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the CDC to reopen the Expo last April.

Without that turnover by the NDC, an agency under the Department of Trade and Industry, CDC's hands are tied in initiating urgent flood control measures along the Sacobia-Bamban River, Angeles said.

The banks of the river are only some 200 meters north of the Expo.

Rampaging muddy streams had eaten up the banks since Saturday, washing out more than 100 houses of Aetas in Marcos and Macapagal villages in Mabalacat town and threatening to erode three schoolhouses built by American soldiers there two years ago.

Aside from some 500 Aetas who have already moved to higher ground, more than 2,000 residents in the two villages are endangered.

The Expo's 35,000-seat Freedom Ring is immediately after Clark's perimeter fence on the Mabalacat side.

The alleged overpricing of the Freedom Ring, from P248 million to P1.2 billion, and other violations were the reasons graft charges were filed against former Vice President Salvador Laurel, former chair of the National Centennial Commission.

The P700-million Centennial Bridge, also built in 1998 at the Expo, also faces the risk of being washed out. It is 500 meters west of the park.

Angeles said there were no available funds to fortify the embankments of Sacobia and drain the water away from Clark's perimeter's fence, the last defense of the Expo against the strong river current.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority has stopped funneling funds to the CDC, he said. "But definitely, we have to do something to save the asset," he said.

He said he was not just going to sit and wait for help.

Today he is scheduled to meet officials of a company which specializes in Dutch technology in erosion prevention.

Angeles said the CDC is also raising money to fund the engineering intervention that will save the Expo Pilipino.

"We cannot let it go to waste," he said.

With reports from Allan Macatuno and Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

40% voter turnout noted in Metro

From page A1

ballots.

In a statement, he said this was the trend based on SK reports from all over the country as of 4 p.m. yesterday. The turnout in previous SK elections was 70 percent.

A survey by the Social Weather Stations in May-June found that 35 percent of Filipinos were dissatisfied with how democracy works in the country.

More than 671,000 positions are to be filled in nearly 42,000 barangays across the country. In each barangay, a chair and seven councilors were elected by voters 18 and older, while voters 15-17 chose a youth council chair and seven councilors for each barangay. Terms are three years.

Jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada and son Jinggoy cast their ballots for the elections in Barangay North Greenhills, San Juan, at around 8:30 a.m. at special polling booth put up inside their detention suite.

Hours before the poll precincts opened yesterday, two grenades exploded in Maguindanao, unidentified men torched an elementary school in Cebu, and policemen shot it out with armed followers of a local official also in Cebu.

Police said they received a lower number of fatalities.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, said 38 persons had been killed and 20 injured in 56 violent incidents since the start of the election period on March 31.

Abalos said there were 25 election-related deaths.

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, chief of Task Force Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections, explained the discrepancy between police, Comelec and military figures.

He said the military reported a bigger number of fatalities because it included ambushes, harassment and other violent clashes.

"Apparently the Comelec (and the PNP) did not count ambushes and the encounters," Camiling said.

Among the latest to be killed was Benito Equit, a candidate for barangay chair in Barangay Libra, Bayog town in Zamboanga del Sur.

Equit, 50, and Romeo Intay, 22, were shot by an unidentified man while they were on board a bus in Barangay Kahayagan in Bayog on Sunday.

In South Upi, Maguindanao, a grenade fired from an M-79 launcher exploded at the compound of Mayor Datu Esrael Sinsuat at around 1 a.m. Monday.

This was followed by the explosion of an 81-mm mortar shell in nearby Barangay Timanan. No one was reported injured in both explosions, police said.

Also yesterday, unidentified men set the Cogon Elementary School in Cordova, Cebu, on fire at around 1:10 a.m. Three hours later, members of the Toledo City police shot it out with two men harassing residents in Barangay Capitan Claudio.

After several minutes of firefight, the policemen arrested two supporters of Councilor Rene Imbralidad, and seized from them two handguns.

Northern Luzon

Six people, three of them candidates, were killed in Abra, Kalinga and Pangasinan from Friday to Sunday.

In Pangasinan, the father and uncle of two SK candidates at Barangay Barat in Umingan town were killed Sunday night after a quarrel when they met in a campaign sortie.

Police identified those killed as Councilor Bayani Aguilar and Magno Pascual. The nephew of Aguilar and the son of Pascual were running for SK positions in the town.

In Cagayan, a candidate for barangay *kagawad* (councilman) was gunned down by a rival reelectionist councilman and two other companions in Sto. Niño, Cagayan on Saturday night.

In Kalinga, a candidate for chair of Barangay Ammascian in Pinukpuk town was gunned down while he was on his way home from a campaign sortie on Friday.

Ballot snatching

The Cordillera police reported that a ballot box was snatched in Barangay Cudal in Tabuk town on Monday morning. Policemen, however, later recovered the ballot box.

In Abra, Joel Torqueza, a supporter of a candidate in Barangay Baog in San Juan town, was shot and killed on Sunday night. Also on Sunday night, police recovered the body of a candidate for village chair of Baog.

In Kalinga, Army soldiers in full combat gear took over the poll duties of teachers in Barangays Mabilong and Canao in Lubuagan town after the teachers refused to serve.

Armando Velasco, Comelec director in the Cordillera, said teachers in Lubuagan had been threatened by suspected New People's Army rebels.

Flying voters, vote buying

In Nueva Ecija, two suspected flying voters were arrested in San Antonio town on Monday.

Lawyer Severino Santos, Nueva Ecija election supervisor, said 150 candidates for barangay and SK posts in the province were disqualified.

In Bulacan, a political leader of a reelectionist barangay chair in Angat town was caught distributing leaflets that doubled as claim stubs for rice on Monday. At least 103 voters in the village received the leaflets.

In Nueva Vizcaya, what officials described as a "generally peaceful elections" were marred by massive vote-buying activities by an official in Solano town.

Residents said the official had been buying votes for his candidates in the different barangays for P400 each vote.

In Isabela, vote-buying incidents were reported in Bagumbayan in Ilagan town and Balintocatoc in Santiago City on Sunday.

In Ilocos Norte, the Comelec received complaints ranging from missing names in the list of voters, absence of voters' registration record (VRR) and the presence of politicians in the polling precincts.

Voters in the mining town of Itogon, Benguet walked for three to four kilometers to cast their votes. Rough and muddy roads in Sitios Balatoc, Acupan and Virac did not prevent voters from going to their polling precincts.

Festive, high turnout

The election mood, despite the rains and the floods, was festive, at least in Floridablanca, Pampanga, according to Fr. Deo Galang, director of the Social Action Center of Pampanga.

At Barangay San Antonio where he voted, voters braved the rains and trooped to the polling precincts.

Floridablanca Councilor Rey Manlulu said 80 percent of voters in the town had already voted two hours before the precincts closed.

Pampanga election supervisor Lambino, without citing final figures, expressed surprise over the "high turnout of voters" despite the bad weather.

He attributed this to the adequate information dissemination by the Comelec.

Bacolor, the town buried by lahar, came to life again. Thousands of Bacolor residents from at least 10 resettlement sites throughout Pampanga trooped to the town's polling precincts on Monday.

Spared from floods because of new roads, Bacolor was a safe place on Monday.

Southern Luzon

Vote buying also marred the elections in Southern Luzon. Vote buying was reported in Prieto Diaz and Irosin towns in Sorsogon, Iriga City in Camarines Sur and in Siniloan and San Pedro towns in Laguna.

Rex Oliva, president of the provincial Association of Barangay Captains, said there was massive vote buying in Barangay San Francisco, Iriga City. He said the voters were given from P100 to P300 each, depending on the number of voters in a family.

In Laguna, lawyer Dioscoro Pajutan, provincial election supervisor, said elections were generally fair and peaceful. Vote buying was observed in at least two places in the province.

A daughter of a candidate for barangay captain in a village in Siniloan, Laguna, complained that his father's opponent used money to buy votes. Another vote-buying incident was reported in Barangay Landayan in San Pedro town.

In Palawan, a failure of election was declared in Barangay Capunayan, Cuyo island town, after election paraphernalia got wet while being transported by boat.

The Visayas

The Comelec described as "isolated incidents" the killing of four persons and the wounding of three others in Samar, Leyte, Antique and Roxas City, Capiz since Sunday.

A woman was killed while her brother, a candidate for barangay chair, was seriously wounded when three armed men opened fire at their group yesterday in San Jorge town, Samar.

Aurora Sale, mother of the two siblings, alleged in a radio interview, that the suspects were bodyguards of San Jorge town Mayor Gliceria Catalan. She, however, did not say if the mayor was involved in the killing.

Stabbed

In Roxas City, a candidate for councilor in Barangay Lunoy was stabbed dead Sunday night by Rodel Alair, said to be a nephew of an opponent.

In Leyte, a candidate for barangay *kagawad* was shot dead on Sunday while walking on his way home in Barangay Candagara, Dagami town.

The Comelec declared a failure of elections in four precincts in separate villages of Northern Samar and Samar. Voting in two precincts in two remote villages of Gandara town, Samar, did not push through because BET members feared for their safety.

Armed men strafed two houses on Sunday in Burabod I. No one was reported hurt.

In Bohol, the voting in a mountain village in Buenavista town was transferred to the municipal building after three armed men wearing bonnets snatched a ballot box and then burned it at about 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

The election in a mountain village of Calatrava town in Negros Occidental was delayed because of the presence of suspected rebels. The voters and the watchers were afraid to get inside the precincts because of the presence of at least 16 members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

A candidate for barangay captain of Winaswasan was reportedly being backed by the RPA-ABB.

In Southern Leyte, Maasin City election officer Marcial Magpatok admitted he had heard about rampant vote buying in the city but "we did not receive (any) formal complaint.)"

Some voters told the INQUIRER that the envelopes, containing P50, were handed out by supporters of the candidates along with the sample ballots outside the precincts.

Rampant vote buying was also reported in Cebu City by opposing camps supported by rivals Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña and former Mayor Alvin Garcia.

The Comelec in Iloilo only received a report that around 30 SK voters in Ajuy town, Iloilo, were brought to a beach resort in the neighboring Concepcion town to vote for a candidate for SK chair.

Rev. Fr. Meliton Oso, chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in Iloilo, said the PPCRV received reports of massive vote buying and several cases of harassment in 17 parishes where they put up roving teams and poll watchers. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Volt Contreras in Manila; Yolanda Fuertes, Jovelyn Reyes, Desiree Caluza, Gia Damaso-Dumo, Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez, Melvin Gascon and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Anselmo Roque, Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes, Jun Malig, Russell Arador, Ronaldo Dizon, Greg Refraccion and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Juan Escandor Jr., Romulo O. Ponte, Geraldford P. Ticke, Ruelle Albert D. Castro, Emir E. Gamis and Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Vicente S. Labro, Jhunnex Napallacan, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Gerry Pagharion, Jolene R. Bulambot, Chito A. Fuentes and Carla P. Gomez, Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Julie S. Alipala, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Edwin O. Fernandez, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Anthony S. Allada, Grace C. Albasin, Ellen P. Red, Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

SK bets complain of fraud in Iligan

SOME SK candidates in Iligan City complained that their rivals were buying votes at P50 in Barangay Suarez, one of the city's thickly populated villages.

In Tawi-Tawi, three persons were killed when a man went on a shooting spree inside the Salangan Elementary School in Barangay Salangan in Tandu Bas around 9 a.m. yesterday.

Helen Aguila-Flores, Comelec director for Western Mindanao, said a failure of elections had been declared in Salangan.

Diaz said two persons were also killed in Siasi, Sulu, on Friday when a husband of a candidate shot them.

Flores said failure of elections was also declared in Barangay Bato-bato in Indanan, Sulu, after a group identified with jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari harassed voters.

In Sarangani province, a staunch supporter of an opposition bet for barangay chair in a remote village of Malungon town died when unidentified men shot him.

In Lanao del Sur, the military yesterday said at least three followers of former Moro leader Nur Misuari were killed in Maguing town on Sunday in a clash with soldiers.

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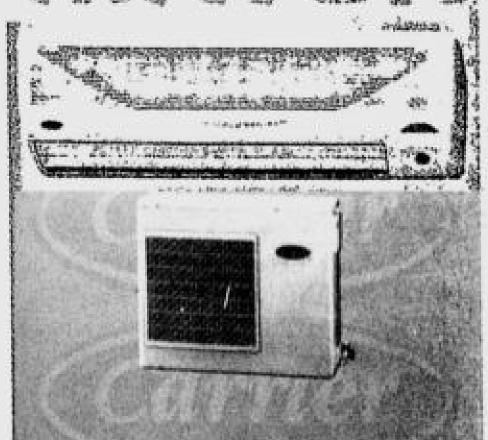

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SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE W/O PRIOR NOTICE

GMA to allies: No deal with Estrada boys

From page A1

acceptable to civil society.

"The spirit of Edsa II requires us to take the moral high ground," Kompil convenor Chito Gascon said in an interview after the one-and-a-half-hour dialogue at which Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and six other Cabinet officials were also present.

"The President clarified that there's no deal being made with the Puno brothers (Ronaldo and Ricardo) and (Jaime) Policarpio," Gascon added.

But Vicky Garchitorena, also a Kompil convenor and former chair of the Presidential Management Staff, said Ronaldo Puno, Estrada's interior secretary, was welcome to join the administration.

"If he volunteered, why not?" she said. "If he'll really help, why not? Volunteering is a good thing if he'll really help the government. We need the help of every Filipino."

Garchitorena added, however, that Ricardo Puno and Policarpio, Estrada's press secretary and legislative liaison officer, respectively, had not similarly volunteered.

"They haven't said anything," she said. "They haven't offered, so what can (the President) say?"

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo told INQUIRER officers, editors and staff at a dinner on July 4 that it was he who had asked the three men to join the administration.

He said he did not offer them any position. But the President said she might ask Ronaldo Puno to serve as consultant in the anti-drug campaign.

Yesterday's dialogue followed a similar one held July 6 between civil society groups and Cabinet officials led by Romulo.

In a statement that Gascon read afterward, Kompil said: "The reported recruitment of erstwhile Estrada henchmen, specifically Ronnie Puno and Jimmy Policarpio, impacts negatively on the moral standards that are essential to good governance. It blurs the moral divide.

"Today the President again assured us that her government has not made any offers to Mr. Puno and Mr. Policarpio.

"We can put the matter to rest even as we remain vigilant as certain quarters will surely continue to try and inflict these persons, and others of the same probity, on the public once again."

Gascon also said that "at this time, as far as Kompil and its allied groups are concerned, this is not the time to abandon the President."

But in a statement, Fr. Joe Dizon, spokesperson of the Estrada Resign Movement (Resign), challenged Ms Macapagal to step down and give way to Vice President Teofisto Guingona, saying this was the only alternative left for the administration.

PRESIDENT Macapagal visits the flooded Barangay Almacen, Hermosa, Bataan, on board an amphibious military vehicle.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Ople

Kompil also raised to the President another sore point: the supposed planned appointment of opposition Sen. Blas Ople as foreign secretary.

"Those of us who were at Edsa are very uncomfortable with the idea that someone who voted (during Estrada's impeachment trial) not to open the second envelope (allegedly containing evidence on Estrada's secret bank account) would now be considered to be part of the Cabinet," Gascon said.

But Kompil said it would respect the President's decision and would not make this "the basis for us to break ties" with the administration.

Garchitorena, who heads Malacañang's search committee, said Ople was among the six who had applied or been nominated for the premier Cabinet post once held by Guingona. She did not name the others.

But she said Kompil's objection to Ople would be a factor for the committee's evaluation of the nominees.

The other Kompil leaders present at the dialogue were Teddy Lopez, Eero Brillantes, Dan Songco, Miguel Perez-Rubio, Evelyn Kilayko, Melita Cruz, Bobbit Librojo, Poneng Tolentino, Jeannette Dumo and Karen Tañada.

The other Cabinet members who attended were Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, housing chair Mike Defensor, National Anti-Poverty Commission Chair Teresita Deles, advisers Dodie Limcaoco and Mai Jimenez, and Tess Baltazar of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Deles said the President assured Kompil that the Punos and Policarpio would "not be part of the government," and that there was "no offer" for them to come on board.

She denied having threatened to quit on July 6 should the three men join the administration.

Election factor

Resign's Dizon noted that Ms Macapagal's plans for the 2004 elections had been "the single most important factor influencing her political decisions of late."

He said this was the same reason that prompted her to woo even the Estrada camp.

"(The President) has shown that she is incapable of uniting the significant political forces who worked hard for a change in government after the disastrous one of Estrada," Dizon said.

"If we want the country to move forward, the only viable option would be for (her) to resign as President and let the Vice President take over, supported by an interim council until the 2004 elections," he added.

Resign urged Guingona to lead a Council for National Unity, Prosperity and Peace, which it said would "unite various democratic political forces under a minimum program of good government and the revival of faltering peace and unification processes."

It said this would give Ms Macapagal freedom to concentrate on the 2004 elections and, at the same time, "let an eminently qualified and respected public official pay undivided attention to governance."

Dizon also described Bishop Orlando Quevedo's statement Sunday—that there was no alternative to the President at present—as a case of "choosing the lesser evil, as many cannot countenance a comeback of the pro-Estrada opposition."

Cojuangco

But Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, founder of Ms Macapagal's original party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), has thrown his support behind Ople's replacement of Guingona as foreign secretary.

Kampi was recently revived under the leadership of Ms Macapagal's personal publicist Dante Ang, who was one of her two associates who had offered Ople the post.

Cojuangco's wife Margarita, now one of the President's assistants, used to chair Kampi.

Cojuangco is also the acknowledged leader of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), whose outspoken secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon has assailed the administration for inviting Ople and Estrada's lieutenants to join the administration.

The former Tarlac congressman relayed his position on Ople in a phone call from the United States to his cousin, Kampi secretary general Emigdio Tanjuatco, who spoke with the INQUIRER yesterday.

"*Maski kalaban noon, kung makakatulong* (Even if he's a former foe, if he can help)," Tanjuatco quoted Cojuangco as saying.

Tanjuatco said Saycon's earlier statements were "not necessarily Copa's stand, much less the position of Peping."

He said it was Cojuangco's belief that "any member of the Cabinet, like Guingona, is the alter ego of the President," and that "a Cabinet official has to follow the policy of the President or give up the position."

He also said any appointment to the Cabinet was the sole prerogative of the President. "If the choice is Ople, then it's Ople," he quoted Cojuangco as saying.

Tanjuatco said that Copa was like a think tank, and that the statements of its members should be taken largely as their personal opinion.

"Mr. Cojuangco had absolutely nothing to do with criticisms aired by Boy Saycon," he said.

Conscience

In a statement, the Kalampagin ang Konsiyensiyang Kinakalawang (KKK) expressed sympathy for the President's "leadership burdens" and pledged "solid support" for her.

It said yesterday's dialogue was "a sincere gesture" of the President that "affirmed the value of civil society and recognized the need for clearing up misunderstanding, sustaining a bridge of continuing dialogue, and crystallizing the truth and forging national cooperation."

The statement was signed by the KKK steering committee members Cecille Guidote-Alvarez, Msgr. Nico Bautista, Sr. Arnold Marie Noel and Carlo Antonio Bernabe. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Agnes E. Donato***

Saycon says sorry to those he offended

From page A1

loudly criticized—"on the table of the Lord here in this church."

"And we are paying heed to the homily of the bishop," he added.

Asked whether he was now open to reconciliation with the President, Saycon said: "I apologize to all those I have offended in the process of this issue being articulated."

In a prepared homily, Villegas cited the need for persons in position of leadership to follow persons of authority.

"If you are in a position of leadership and authority . . . it means exercising authority with humility, it means being a healing and listening and unifying servant leader," the bishop said.

"If you are in a position of subordination, total commitment to God means bowing down in courtesy and obedience to authority."

Saycon said he was taking Villegas' message "very seriously" and "welcoming it as part of those that must follow government."

"In the house of the Lord, everything is possible," he said. "I've rested my case."

Saycon said he was leaving the shrine hoping that "an enlightened leadership" would resolve the issue.

"I will not criticize anymore," he said, but quickly added: "It does not mean that we will not speak out on very moral issues that refer to Edsa and to the principles it teaches."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., whom Saycon had envisioned as "a rallying light" of civil society groups in expressing disappointment with the administration, instead urged them to come together for the country.

He echoed the Catholic Church in calling for national unity and dismissed calls that the President resign and he take her place as her constitutional successor.

"Things that unite should rise above differences that tend to disunite," Guingona said after attending the 5:30 p.m. Mass. "There is no basis for (the calls for resignation). She is still the President."

Guingona, who formally bowed out as foreign secretary yesterday, said Villegas' homily was "very good."

"It must be a commitment from the heart," the Vice President said. "What matters most is the poor."

In his homily, the bishop criticized those "building a culture of disdain."

"What we seem to fail to recognize is that we are bringing down innocent people with us in this endless pettiness, bickering and disdain for one another," Villegas said.

"If we are totally committed to God, it is the poor who must be our priority and not our hurt egos or our ambitions for tomorrow, he added."

Seating arrangements

Applause greeted Guingona's arrival with housing chief Michael Defensor at the Edsa Shrine.

Guingona acknowledged the applause and waved to the crowd of more than a hundred people.

Around 30 minutes before the Mass, Saycon, limping and holding a cane, arrived and was met by Dodie Limcaoco, the President's adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs.

Limcaoco invited Saycon to sit at the first left pew occupied by him, National Anti-Poverty Commission chair Teresita Deles, the President's legislative liaison Gabriel Claudio, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza.

Saycon obliged, but shortly before the Angelus was said, he moved to the right pew occupied by Copa leader Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, lawyer Leonard de Vera and Copa officials.

Guingona later took a seat with the Cabinet officials.

Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran and Councilor Nathanael Santiago and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teddy Casiño took a pew at the back.

Vicky Garchitorena, former chief of the Presidential Management Staff, also sat at the back.

Limcaoco and Soliman arrived together. Both declined to say whether they were sent there as representatives of the President or to defuse the anti-administration sentiment during the event.

"We came here to hear Mass, that's all," Limcaoco said.

During the exchange of wishes of peace, it was Saycon who first crossed the center aisle to greet Guingona and the Cabinet officials.

At the end of the Mass, reporters were surprised to see opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

Kompil

The Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II did not attend the Mass.

Earlier in the day, Kompil convenor Chito Gascon said that while Copa had decided to withdraw its support, the alliance still believed that "the President is doing many reform measures that need support."

"It's not yet time to rock the boat and destroy the (reform) agenda. There'll be the election in 2004, anyway. These destabilization (moves) are not helping," he said.

Gascon said Copa did not invite Kompil leaders to the Mass, although "some friends" of his were asked to attend.

He also belittled Copa's clout, saying it was just a group of individuals with no mass base, unlike Kompil.

Limcaoco said he considered Copa "a civil society group with a lot of media savvy and media presence, with very persuasive spokespersons."

He said the 5:30 p.m. Mass was a "regular Mass" that Copa had merely asked to attend.

Limcauco also denied that the President had considered attending the Mass. He said "a private member of Copa" had merely asked Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo if it would be a good idea for the President to show up.

"There was really no invitation. There's no negotiation . . . I think there was some misrepresentation made," Limcaoco said, referring to the INQUIRER headline on Sunday that the President was supposedly considering attending the Mass.

He added: "There's nothing to negotiate because the President has said, 'You choose. We can't afford (termites). We must build a strong republic.' There's no basis for negotiation." ***With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

Aides leave Gloria to save dying girl

From page A1

Quezon City.

Mae Ann Moharam's father Allan was a desperate man carrying a dying girl in her arms through waist-deep flood waters on July 6, when he stumbled upon an ambulance waiting for the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The ambulance, parked at the corner of Araneta and E. Rodriguez avenues in Quezon City, was then carrying three officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The DSWD officials were part of the welcoming party for one of the President's relief operations in Quezon City.

Being mainly desk-bound executives, the three officials were startled to find themselves with a life-and-death situation. They were DSWD-NCR Director Alicia Bala, Assistant Regional Directors Benilda Arcilla and Telsa Biolena—and the driver.

The already "hysterical" Allan practically barged into the ambulance, recalled Arcilla in an interview yesterday.

By then, Mae Ann was already convulsing due to high fever. "We thought she could no longer make it," Arcilla recalled.

It was an emergency within a calamity, for the child's Tatalon neighborhood, from where her father had carried her in a search for help, was already underwater.

"I think that was a first in DSWD: three directors instead of our field personnel literally rushing a child to a hospital," Arcilla said.

Similar incident

A similar incident occurred three days later in Pampanga.

The Army truck carrying the President, who just had lunch with flood victims in San Juan, Guagua, was hailed by a mother with a sick child.

Ms Macapagal ordered the truck to stop. She then took the year-old boy, who was then convulsing, in her arms and entered a bakery. The President used a *pandesal* stand as a bed for the boy.

Ms Macapagal called her personal doctor to treat the child. When the boy was revived, the President's party left.

Reached by the INQUIRER yesterday at his family's 2 X 2 meter shanty, Allan, 29, jobless, relished the thought of her daughter being an "accidental" VIP patient then.

"It's only upon arrival at the National Children's Hospital that I realized I was with these directors. The hospital staff would later kid me for getting a special treatment," he said.

Puzzled

Allan said he was puzzled when, upon getting into the parked ambulance without first asking questions, he did not see paramedics inside but three casually dressed women instead.

Arcilla said that because of the emergency that "left us speechless" during the trip to the hospital, the three of them weren't able to meet up with the President's convoy at the appointed spot.

"We just have to catch up with the President after leaving (father and daughter) at the hospital," she said.

Mae Ann, who turns 2 this July 23, was confined for five days at the hospital. She had recovered when the INQUIRER saw her yesterday. Her mother, Normina, 29, also jobless, is seven months pregnant with a third child.

The DSWD yesterday gave P1,000 in follow-up assistance to Mae Ann, mainly for her medicines. It asked Allan to report to the NCR office this week for possible employment under the department's livelihood program

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Aid . . .

From page A1

Japan, the weather bureau said.

At least 10 people were killed over the weekend in bad weather due to flooding and landslides triggered by the typhoon, bringing the death toll to 65 in 10 days, disaster officials said.

The Red Cross said it had helped 98,107 people affected by floods.

Of this number, more than 13,000 remained in evacuation centers in Manila and in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Tarlac, Bataan, La Union and in Baguio City.

"Our emergency response teams in all the affected areas are still conducting relief operations as well as first aid and rescue missions whenever there is a need," Red Cross spokesperson Alejandro Torres said. ***AFP***

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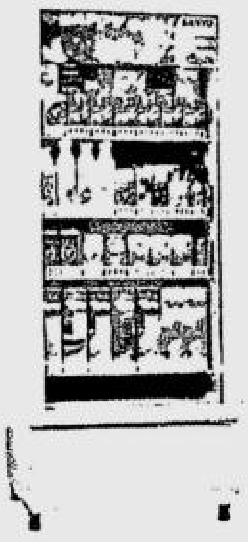
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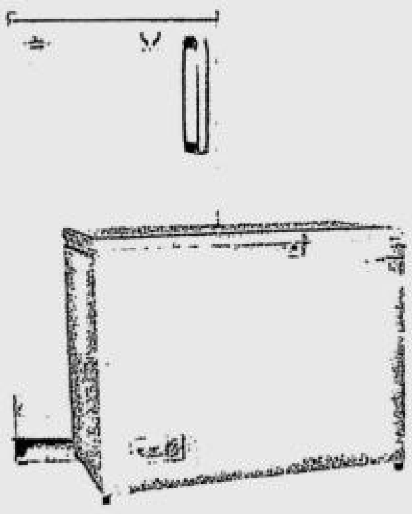
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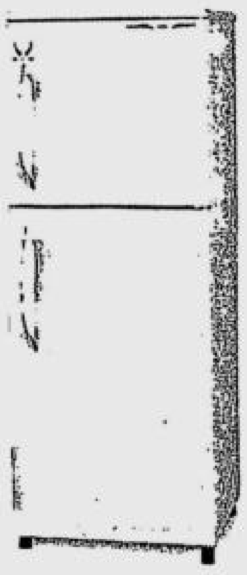
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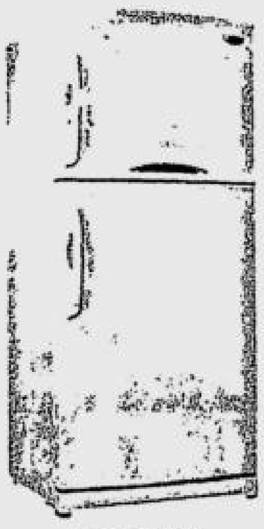
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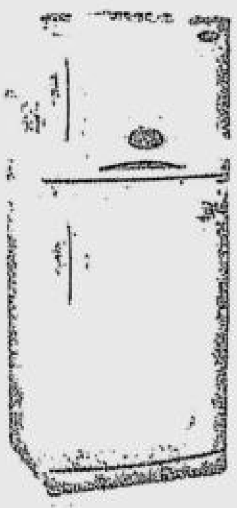
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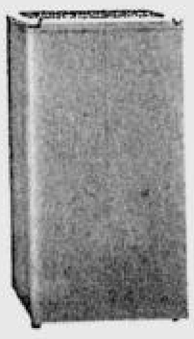
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TAEKWONDO MEET

RP jin leads semifinals cast

NATIONAL pool member Jose Enriquez, University of Santo Tomas' Terrence Boteja and Baguio's Edward Buliyat crushed their respective foes yesterday to make the senior men's pinweight semifinals at the start of the Samsung Best of the Best national taekwondo championships at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Enriquez bested Ateneo's Karym Laidan to win by superiority after they had battled to a 3-3 tie, while Buliyat outclassed Taekwondo Blackbelters Brotherhood's Witt Valencia, 3-0. Boteja handily won over Technological University of the Philippines' Mirzam Madrid, 3-0.

In the next round, Enriquez will face former national jin Angelito Ong, who rallied from a 1-3 deficit to turn back Baguio's Michael Albert Belo in one of the exciting matches of the day.

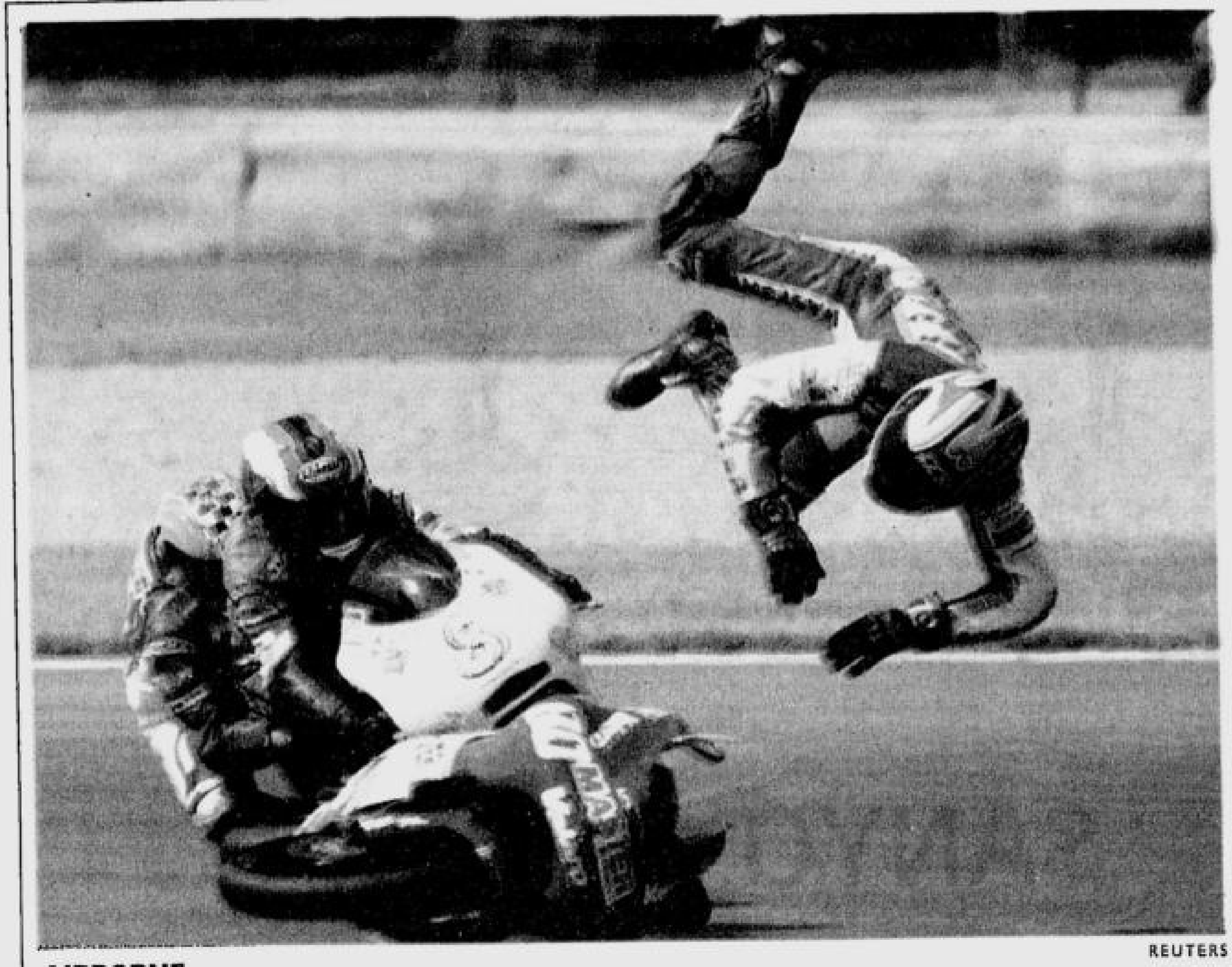
The week-long tourney, organized by IMG and Philippine Taekwondo Association, is sponsored by Samsung and supported by Accel and 103.5 K Lite.

Also winning advancing in their respective classes were 1998 Asian Games bronze medalist John-John Abratique, Kuala Lumpur SEA Games and 2002 World Cup bronze winner Dax Morfe, national pool members Anthony Ong and Arnold Valenzuela, and former RP jin Ronald Samijon.

Abratique whipped Eduardo Nicutuan, 3-0, in the bantamweight action, while Morfe routed UST's Michael Quisumbing, 4-0, in the welterweight division.

Ong edged Baguio's Arnold Oglayan, 7-6, Valenzuela trounced Batangas' Joseph Reyes, 3-0, while and Samijon defeated Bacolod's Edgar Ronquillo, 6-2.

Also making it to the quarterfinals were Cebu's Manny Bula, Angeles University Foundation's Mark Aclao, Las Piñas' Wingrad Morales, Laguna South's Raymar Aringo, Baguio's Dan Raye Belo and Letran's Wilfred Luis Santos. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



REUTERS

AIRBORNE

Spain's Hector Barbera (right) flies through the air after crashing his Aprilla as Honda riders Gabor Talmacsi of Italy and Andrea Ballerini of Italy try to avoid him during the British 125cc Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Donington Park Circuit on Sunday. Arnaud Vincent of France prevailed.

3 on 3 tourney Metro Manila elims slated

A TOTAL of 80 schools will compete against each other when the Nike 3 on 3 Metro Manila qualifying rounds get going on July 20 (Saturday) at the Xavier School Gym, Greenhills, San Juan.

The field was divided into 16 groups of five through a raffle draw conducted by tournament director Tanny Gonzalez during the Coaches' Workshop held at Club Filipino last Thursday.

Of the 80 schools, only 20 will advance to the elimination rounds.

The top team in each group after the qualifying event will automatically advance to the next round, while the second-players will compete in a single round-robin to determine the final four qualifiers.

"The response of the teams during the Coaches Workshop has been overwhelming and so we're all looking forward to a top rate Nike 3 on 3 qualifying round ahead of us," said Gonzales.

Regular Nike 3 on 3 participants La Salle-Greenhills, Ateneo, Letran and San Beda banner this year's roster of powerhouse teams, which also include newcomers Arellano University and Arise and Shine Academy.

Teams from nearby provinces such as Canossa Academy-Lipa, St. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor and Colegio de San Agustin Biñan are also joining the fray.

Four teams have already qualified for the August National Finals, namely, Davao leg champion Emar Learning Center, Cagayan de Oro titlist Sacred Heart of Jesus Montessori School, Bacolod qualifier University of St. La Salle and Cebu winner University of Cebu.

Major sponsor of the Nike 3 on 3—the longest running and most prestigious high school basketball tournament of its kind—is High Endurance by Old Spice. Participating sponsors are Gatorade, Absolute Drinking Water, Toby's Olympic Village, Olympic Word, Royal Sporting House, SM Supermalls and SM Department Store. *MAR*

Free agents

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE DEARTH of top-tier talents in this year's free-agent crop makes it less lucrative than next year's bunch when such prominent names as Tim Duncan (San Antonio), Jason Kidd (New Jersey), Gary Payton (Seattle), Alonzo Mourning (Miami) and Juwan Howard (Denver) are available.

Still, the 2002 free-agent list contains several decent players, whether restricted or unrestricted. A restricted free agent, one who has completed his NBA-mandated rookie contract (four years or less), is eligible to sign an offer sheet with any other club although his old team can keep his services by matching the offer under the right of first refusal. An unrestricted free agent can sign with any club with no strings attached whatsoever.

The top names in the restricted free-agent list are Mike Bibby (Sacramento), Michael Olowokandi (LA Clippers), Bonzi Wells (Portland), Harpring (Philadelphia), Ricky Davis (Cleveland), Rasho Nesterovic (Minnesota) and Larry Hughes (Golden State).

Bibby, who may have made at least an extra $30 million with his outstanding performance in the playoffs (especially against the LA Lakers in the Western finals), Olowokandi (who had his best games against Shaquille O'Neal last campaign) and LaFrentz are expected to re-sign with their current clubs.

Armstrong looks to later stages

PLOUAY, France—Lance Armstrong is behind in the Tour de France, but happy he has kept his deficit to a minimum after a flat, speedy first week.

He's looking to the Tour's later stages to catch up.

Armstrong is in eighth place overall and trails Spain's Igor Gonzalez Galdeano of the Once team by 34 seconds, largely because a crash entangled the Texan on Saturday and slowed him down by 27 seconds.

Armstrong placed 35th in Sunday's eighth stage, a mostly flat 217.5-kilometer (134.9-mile) run from Saint-Martin-de-Landelles to Plouay in the western Brittany region.

He finished with the main pack, 1:55 behind stage-winner Karsten Kroon, who led a Dutch sweep of the top three places. *AP*

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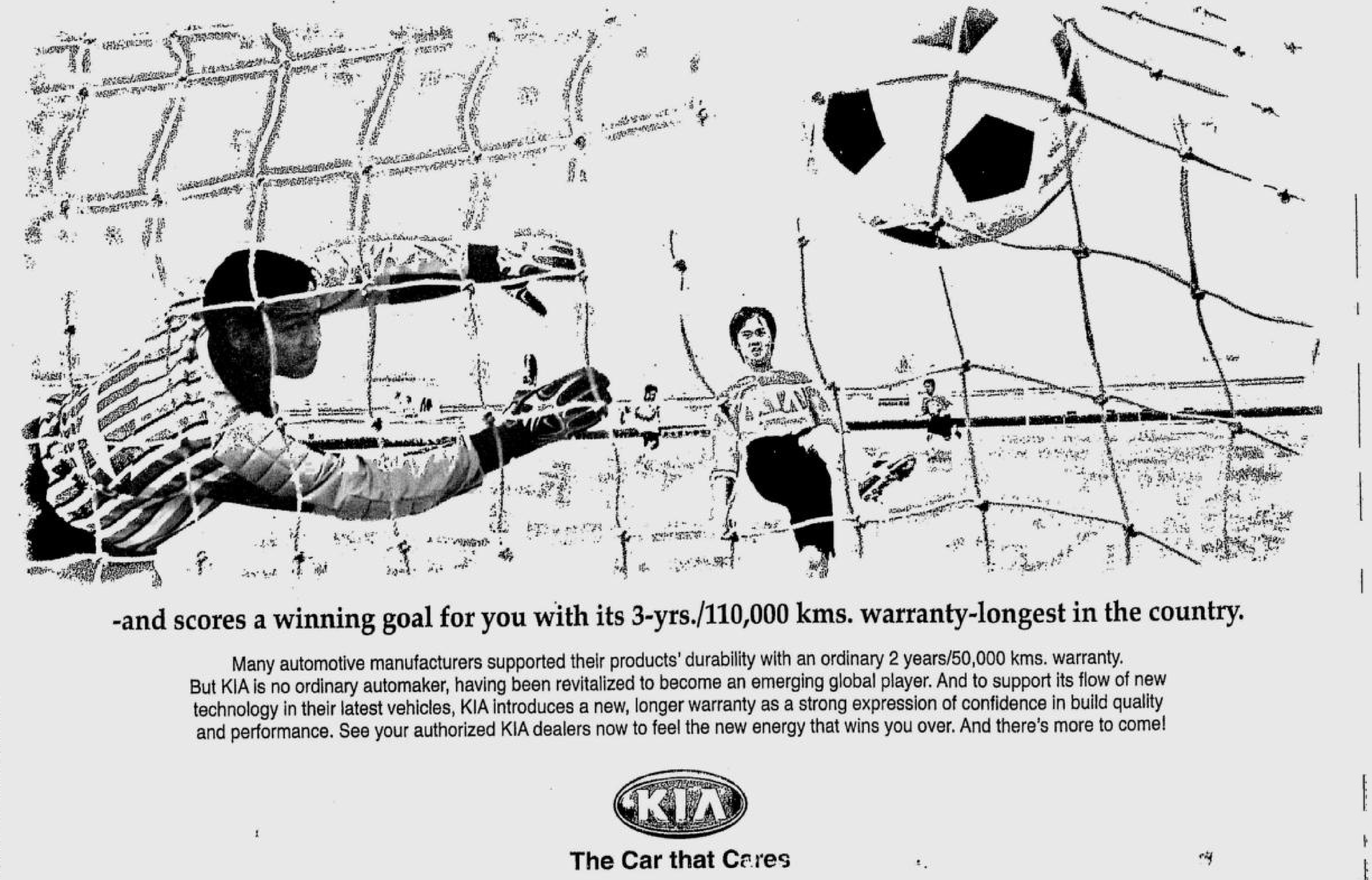

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TESKE: Sixth victory in as many years. AP

Back-9 surge lifts Teske to 2-shot win

SYLVANIA, Ohio—Rachel Teske pulled away from rookie Beth Bauer with four birdies in a six-hole span Sunday to win the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic by two strokes.

Her closest call came before the tournament even began.

She almost missed her tee time in Wednesday's pro-am because of airline problems, arriving at the course 45 minutes before she was scheduled to tee off. On the LPGA Tour, players who do not play in the pro-am are disqualified from the tournament.

Teske's sixth victory in as many years on the LPGA Tour and second of the year, was worth $150,000. She also won the Ping tournament to start the 2002 season.

Her final-round 66 left her at 14-under 270 and two shots better than Bauer, who parred the last six holes while shooting a 69.

Teske lost in a playoff to Annika Sorenstam two years ago when she made birdies on the last two holes but missed several other opportunities.

Meanwhile, Filipina Jennifer Rosales carded a 72 and finished tied at 34th spot with a 281. Compatriot Dorothy Delasin had a 75 and wound up tied at 49th (284). Rosales won $6,150, while Delasin pocketed $3,516.

Webb had won 16 of the previous 25 times she held at least a share of the lead heading into the final round of an LPGA event. But she was never a factor after bogeying the first hole after failing to get up and down from the right rough and then double-bogeying at the third hole.

Webb's 1-under 70 left her at 273 and tied for third with first-round leader Laura Diaz, who closed with a 67. *AP*

Sluman prevails by 4

MILWAUKEE—Jeff Sluman fired a 3-under-par 68 Sunday for a four-stroke victory over Tim Herron (66) and Steve Lowery (70) at the Greater Milwaukee Open.

Sluman's 23-under 261 total was one stroke shy of Loren Roberts' 72-hole GMO record set two years ago.

Last year, Sluman led going into Sunday but finished 10th. He also took the 54-hole lead in 1998, when he won his first GMO.

Kenny Perry (65) took fourth, one stroke ahead of Joey Sindelar, Greg Chalmers and J.P. Hayes, who finished six strokes back.

Sluman, who bettered Roberts' 54-hole record of 19-under with a 20-under 193, took a two stroke lead over Lowery into the final round Sunday.

He began his day with just his second bogey of the tournament, but followed with a birdie and made the turn at minus-23 with a four-stroke lead over Lowery. *AP*

PBA CUP

SMB, Ginebra clash today

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
Red Bull	5	1
Coca-Cola	4	2
Talk N Text	4	2
Alaska	3	2
Sta. Lucia	3	2
San Miguel	2	3
FedEx	2	3
Selecta-RP	2	3
Shell	2	3
Ginebra	2	4
Purefoods	1	5

GAME TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Ginebra vs San Miguel

UNSUCCESSFUL in their recent outings, sister squads San Miguel Beer and Barangay Ginebra collide today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Kings, who yielded to the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 89-76, in Dumaguete City last week, parade a new import against the Beermen in the 7 p.m. match in a bid to improve their 2-4 card.

The Kings are hoping that the 6-foot-6 Isaac Spencer is the missing link who could pull them out of their misery.

Spencer has sound credentials to speak of, being the second all-time leading scorer of Murray State University, a US NCAA Division I school.

He also ranked 10th overall in scoring while playing for the St. Joseph's Express during the 2001-2002 USBL season, norming 18.6 points per game.

Man for man, Spencer is a good matchup against San Miguel's Shea Seals, who, along with Nic Belasco carried the brunt for the Beermen during a losing endeavor against Batang Red Bull, 78-73, last week.

Art Long lost his rationality in that hotly contested match, engaging Tony Lang in a fistfight and instigating a bench-clearing incident between the two squads.

For Long's belligerent acts, the Beermen and the Thunder were slapped a combined P405,000 in fine by the Commissioner's Office.

The P50,000 penalty imposed on Long for unsportsmanlike behavior was understandable, having fuelled a near free-for-all.

But Lang netting the same amount surprised many as he was clearly the aggrieved party, a Red Bull official, who requested anonymity, said. The Beermen have to contain Long's outbursts on the floor if they want progress on their 2-3 win-loss record.

As for the Kings, Ben Davis must show the same attitude he displayed against the Talk N Text Phone Pals, whom they caught flatfooted, 74-63, a week ago.

POC may relax Asiad criteria

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ASIAN Games chief of mission Tom Carrasco yesterday said the Asiad Task Force is open to the revisions of the Philippine Olympic Committee executive board regarding the criteria for athletes going to the Busan Games from Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

This developed after POC secretary general Romy Ribaño announced that the POC exective board, which convenes tomorrow, may relax the "prohibitive criteria" which the Task Force is currently using to screen the national delegation.

"We are mandated to enforce these measures but it is up to the POC to make the final decision on who is worthy to be in Busan and who is not," Carrasco told the INQUIRER. "We can only make recommendations."

Ribaño earlier said that the country can actually afford to send as many as 200 athletes and 100 officials. That count, according to him, is the basis of the P30-million budget allocated by the Philippine Sports Commission.

So far, there are only 160 athletes who made it to the national pool with just a handful expected to be included when all the qualifying events are over by the end of the month.

The Task Force has also junked the petition of tennis and men's baseball teams, although the POC executive board is reportedly considering allowing four netters—Johnny Arcilla, Joseph Victorino, Patricia Santos and Czarina Mae Arevalo—despite the fact that both national sports associations didn't make the criteria.

Although Paba's appeal to the POC executive board was brought back to the Task Force, Ribaño said the national men's baseball team still has a chance of making it.

BASEBALL RESULTS

American League

Cleveland 10, NY Yankees 7; Toronto 6, Boston 5; Seattle 7, Tampa Bay 6; Baltimore 6, Oakland 3; Chi White Sox 6, Detroit 4; Kansas City 12, Anaheim 3; Minnesota 5, Texas 4.

National League

NY Mets 4, Philadelphia 2; Montreal 10, Atlanta 3; Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 3; Chicago Cubs 10, Florida 3; Cincinnati 8, Houston 3; St Louis 4, San Diego 1; Colorado 5, San Francisco 3; Los Angeles 2, Arizona 1. *AP*

THE Japanese volleybelles receive instructions from coach Masahito Yoshikawa during the recent Tokyo leg.

Japan volleyball team is World GP darkhorse

DESPITE a not-so impressive performance in the just-concluded Tokyo leg, Japan is expected to bounce back when the 10th World Grand Prix Women's Volleyball Championships shift to Manila beginning Friday.

Japan won just once in its three games, hurdling Thailand (25-14, 25-18, 25-13), but losing to Germany (20-25, 19-25, 21-25) and Brazil (24-26, 20-25, 25-27).

On Friday, the Japanese meet Brazil anew before taking on China leg topnotcher Russia on Saturday and then clashing with Germany on Sunday.

The Araneta Coliseum will be the site of the World Grand Prix's Philippine stop which has New Pagcor as presentor; San Mig Light, Agfa Film, Red Bull Energy Drink, PCSO, the Philippine Sports Commission and adidas as major sponsors.

Other backers are the Philippine Tourism Authority, St. Monique Valais, Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, Dari Crème Light, Nextel Communications, Viva Mineral Water, Citibank, Kleenex Facial Tissue and Kotex.

Led by Horai Makiko and Sugiyama Sachito, who were its top scorers in Tokyo, the team from the Land of the Rising Sun was touted as the dark horse prior to this year's World Grand Prix.

Expect Japan to come up with a big surprise when the Manila leg, which is also supported by Philamlife, Godiva, PLDT, Philweb and Alaska Milk, begins. The Japanese for sure aren't going to put to waste their winning the recent 2002 International Canada which it did at the expense of host Canada.

Japan also had an eye-popping performance in last year's Grand Champions Cup which it hosted. In that tournament, the Japanese defeated Brazil, South Korea and the USA and lost only to China and Russia, resulting in a surprise third-place finish.

They have also played friendly matches at home against the USA, have participated in the Montreux Volley Masters in Switzerland and in another 4-nation tournament in Italy.

The other Japanese players to watch in the event which has the Philippine Star, 92.3 Joey's Rhythm, dzAR Angel Radyo 1026 and Viva Vintage TV as media partners, are Otomo Ai, Mukai Hisako, Takahashi Miyuki and Kodama Sachiko. Coaching the team is Masahiro Yoshikawa.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Robert Pactolerin shot a one-under-par 71 to post a two-stroke victory over Mario Siodina in the PAF Commanding General-Mayor's Cup championship at Villamor. Also today in 1989, Dan Liquido beat Clemente Cabrera Jr., 6-1, 6-2, to rule the 18-and-under division of the Pro Kennex Challenge age group championships at the Mandaue tennis courts.

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SPORTS
Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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Filipino dribblers take on Canadians

GAMES TODAY
(Taipei PE College)
5:30 p.m.—Canada vs Philippines
7:30 p.m.—Taiwan vs Russia
(Tainan Chengkung U)
5:30 p.m.—Australia vs SINA
9:30 p.m.—Japan vs South Korea

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association selection tangles with Canada's University of Alberta at 5:30 p.m. today in the 25th William Jones Cup at the Taipei Physical Education College Gym.

It will be the Filipinos' second game in the tournament as they are playing the Russians, represented here by the Lokomotive Novosibirsk, at presstime last night.

Having met the towering Russians with an average height of 6-foot-7, the Filipinos shouldn't be cowed by the Golden Bears, the reigning Canada Inter-University Athletic Union men's basketball champions.

The Golden Bears' tallest players are 6-foot-10 Kevin Petterson and 6-9 Reuben Hall, the team captain. Their top gunners are 6-3 Paul Scherer and 6-1 Stephen Parker, chosen as MVP of the CIAU tournament last year.

Coach Francis Rodriguez will again tap 6-8 Jeff Flowers, 6-6 Romel Adducul and 6-7 Billy Mamaril to bang bodies with Canada's behemoths. Alex Compton, Peter Simon and Bruce Dacia, on the other hand, will be pitted against Parker and Scherer.

The 7:30 p.m. game pits the Tawanese against the Russians, with the host team aiming to recover from a 74-72 upset it suffered from the Japanese in the inaugurals on Saturday.

All eight teams entered in the annual tournament will see action today with two games being held at the Tainan Chengkung University Gym. Australia meets SINA at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Japan-South Korea tussle at 7:30 p.m.

Because of the single-round robin format, Rodriguez said he's hoping that they could win their early assignments to build up the players' confidence. The Filipinos meet the Taiwanese at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow. *Roy Luarca*

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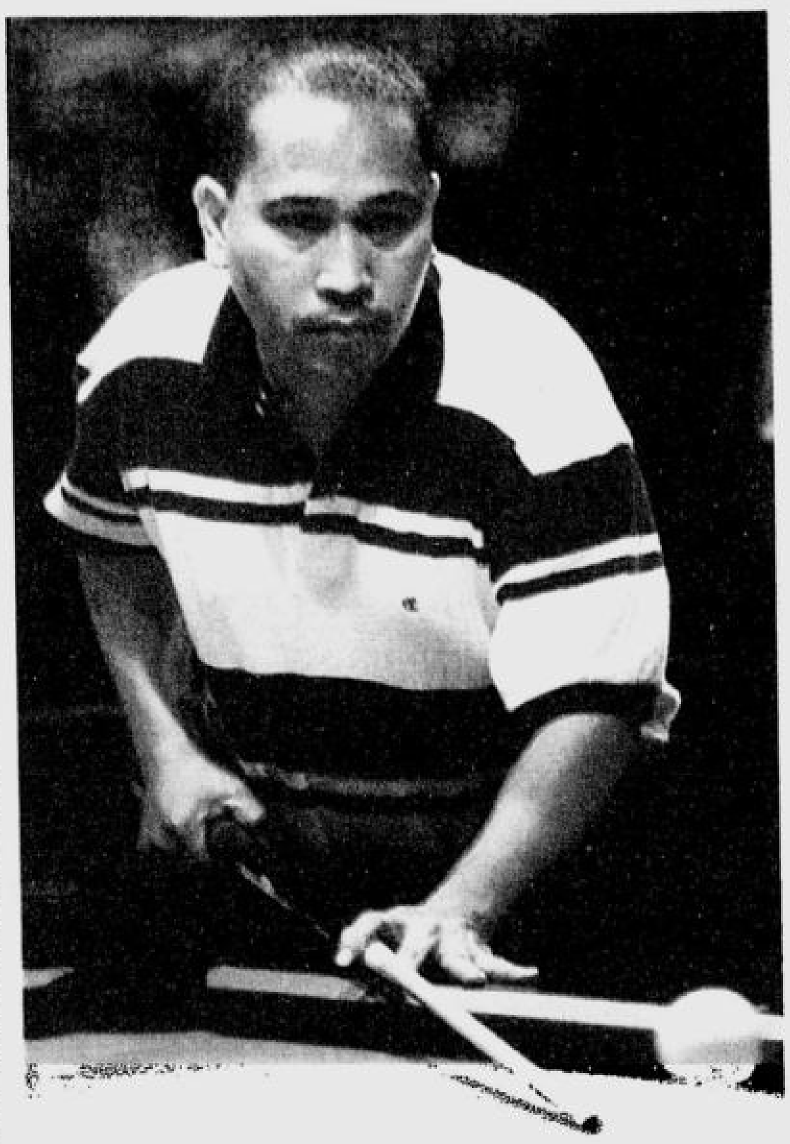
Alabang chess

THE SOUTHERN Chess Association directors led by its president, lawyer Constantino Marcaida of Ayala Corp., and secretary general Joel Hicap will be holding the 1st Alabang Country Club Incorporated invitational executive active chess tournament on July 28 at the Acacia Room #9 of the Alabang Country Club in Muntinlupa City.

For inquiry, call ACCI manager Marites Bo-ot at (842-1107) or Hicap (0919-3897588).

WORLD POOL

Gallego, Reyes sparkle



GALLEGO: Impressive wins.

CARDIFF, Wales—Filipinos, led by touted Efren "Bata" Reyes and unheralded Ramil Gallego, continued their smashing performances in the second round of the 2002 World Pool Championship at the Cardiff International Arena here.

Reyes, the 1999 champion, and Gallego, a Bristol qualifier, streaked to their fourth straight wins for eight points in pacing their respective groups even as Francisco 'Django' Bustamante, Lee Van Corteza, Rodolfo Luat and Canada-based Alex Pagulayan also appeared headed for the knockout stages with 3-1 cards.

It was Gallego, a former Japan Open champion, however, who made the biggest impact in the 128-man field by blanking Chien-Te Chung, 5-0, and whipping Welshman Wayne Lloyd, 5-3.

Thus far, Gallego has taken 20 racks and yielded just three as he virtually assured himself of advancing in Group 1.

Reyes beat Stephan Cohen, 5-3, and Ryan Rampersaud, 5-1, respectively, in Group 5.

After losing to Thomas Engert, 5-2, Bustamante bounced back with a 5-4 victory over Anthony Ginn that tied him with Engert for the Group 7 lead. Both have six points and appeared headed to the last 64.

Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Corteza chalked up wins over Riko Diks, 5-4, and Luis Miguel Sanchez, 5-1, to share the Group 13 lead with Sing-Young Park.

Pagulayan split his second round games, edging Jim Rempe, 5-4, before losing by the same score to Matjaz Erculj in Group 14. Pagulayan shared the lead with Andy Richardson and Erculj at six points.

Luat had to do a lot of struggling before squeaking past local bet Mark Williams and Troy Mark by similar 5-4 scores in Group 12. Luat was tied with Williams at six points.

Trailing them was Andam, who bested Mario Morra, 5-4, for his second win in three games and four points.

Also at 2-1 and four points was Antonio Lining, who nipped Nick Varner, 5-4, in their Group 8 match.

Other big names in the lead were Fong-Pang Chao in Group 3, Ralf Souquet (Group 4), Kun-Fang Lee (Group 6) and Earl Strickland (Group 15). *Roy Luarca*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

POOL: World Professional Pool Championships 2002 - Day 3, 1st Session at 10:30 a.m., 2nd Session at 6 p.m. on ESPN, Day 4, 1st Session at 9 p.m., 2nd Session tomorrow at 2 a.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Greater Milwaukee Open, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Golf Classics Magnificent 8 - Carnoustie at 10:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: ATP Miller Lite Hall of Fame Tennis Championships, Semifinal at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

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Iverson hosts party while awaiting arrest

IVERSON (right) talks with an unidentified woman in the early morning hours Sunday at his Gladwyne, Philadelphia home. AP

PHILADELPHIA—As he awaited arrest on assault charges, Allen Iverson played host to an all-night party at his mansion, where guests swam and played basketball in the rain.

The $2.4 million house in Gladwyne had been quiet since the charges were filed Thursday.

But the party that started Saturday lasted through the night, and photographs taken by The Associated Press show Iverson in a heated discussion with an unidentified older woman on the front step just before 5 a.m., as the party was breaking up.

Police, who have ordered Iverson to remain at home until his expected arrest Tuesday, kept tabs on the situation from outside the gate.

Philadelphia police filed warrants for Iverson's arrest the same day they searched the suburban mansion and towed off a Cadillac SUV, in which they found broken glass, rocks and blood. The search of the home and vehicle did not turn up a weapon, a police source has said.

The warrants charge that Iverson—armed and accompanied by his uncle, Gregory Iverson—went looking for his wife July 3 after a dispute and threatened two Philadelphia men at his cousin's apartment.

Police have said that Tawanna Iverson, 26, checked into a hotel on July 1 and that the NBA star went looking for her there, asking security guards if they had seen a car with smashed windows. He left without finding it, authorities said.

Police have ordered the 76ers' guard to remain at home until Tuesday, when he is scheduled to turn himself in after his lawyer returns from a European vacation.

"If Iverson is seen on the street or out partying, we will arrest him," Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson said Thursday.

The charges filed against Iverson include felony trespass and weapons charges and misdemeanor assault.

Anonymous sources told The New York Times in Sunday's editions that Iverson's contract with the Sixers wouldn't be guaranteed if he were convicted of a felony. Iverson has $40.5 million and three years left on a $70.8 million extension signed in January 1999. **AP**

Stockton successor

SALT LAKE CITY—Real Madrid point guard Raul Lopez, the likely successor to John Stockton, has negotiated a buyout of his Spanish-league contract and could join the Utah Jazz as early as Wednesday.

However, Jazz vice president for basketball operations Kevin O'Connor cautioned Sunday that several hurdles remain, including approval by the sport's international governing body, FIBA, as well as the Spanish league and NBA. **AP**

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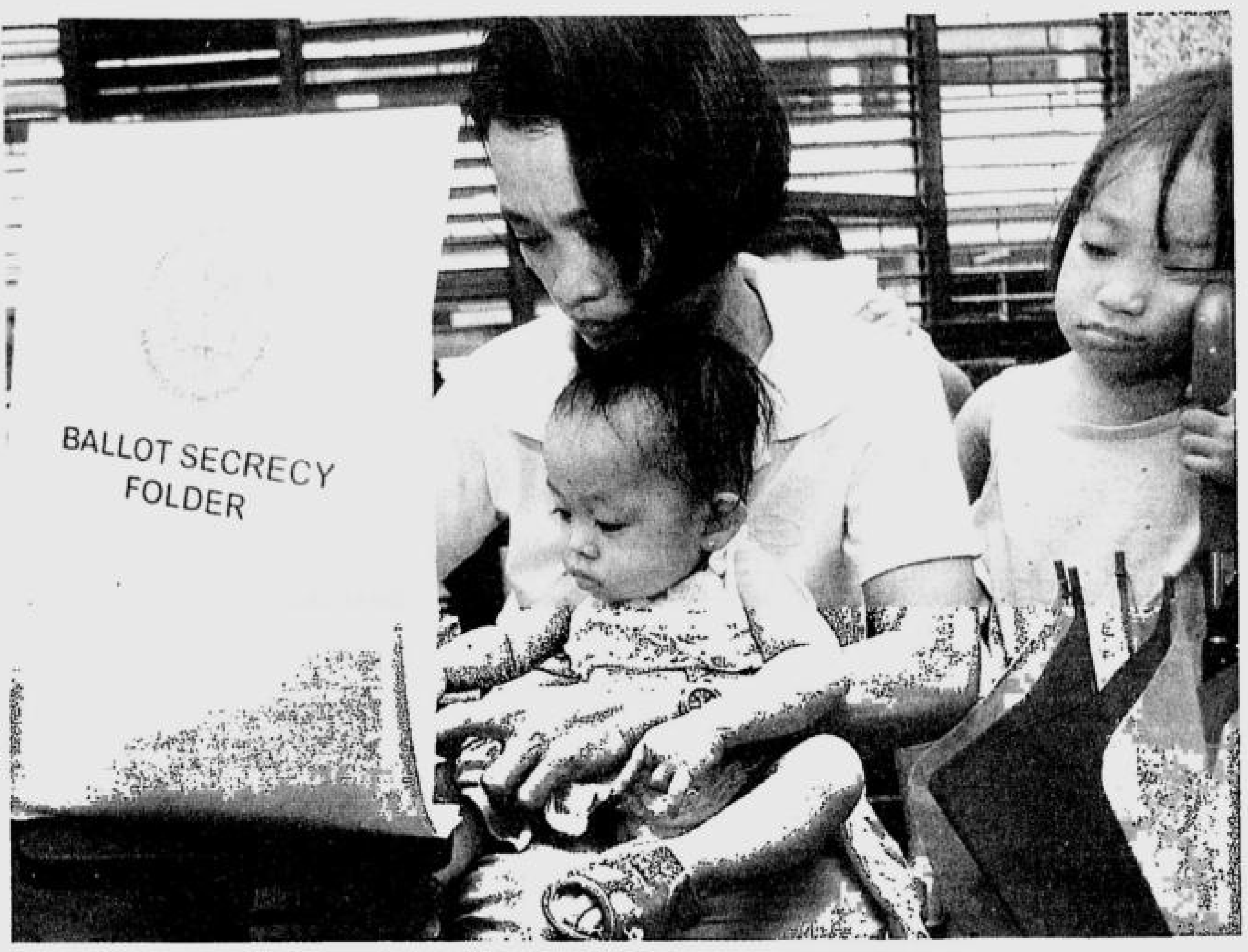
METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

▩ **Napolcom official suspected in ex-cop's slay** /A22

▩ **Stay at NBI, chief tells kidnapping suspect** /A22

▩ **The tragedy and miracle that was Caloy Sanchez** /A22



VOTING LESSONS
Will the children benefit or suffer from the choices their elders made in yesterday's elections? A mother brings her two children as she casts her vote at an elementary school in Tondo, Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

Man charged with P18.50-theft

By Agnes E. Donato

FOR EATING a chocolate bar worth P18.50 that he had picked off a shelf in the supermarket where he worked, a salesperson was charged with theft before the city prosecutor's office.

Charged was Bartolome Sandrex de Leon, 28, employed by Goking, a concessionaire at Rustan's supermarket in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

Security guard Nestor Mistica told police he caught De Leon taking a bar of Nestle Classic Fruit and Nut Milk Chocolate from a display

MAN CHARGED/ A22

Metro polls 'confused, bungled'

By Jerome Aning, Agnes E. Donato, Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza, Tina Santos and Nelson F. Flores

METRO MANILA local officials generally declared the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections "peaceful," although cases of confusion and a boycott by teachers in Parañaque were also reported.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. apologized for the confusion in Manila and vowed that the 2004 national elections would be modernized to eliminate the glitches in yesterday's polls.

According to the National Sangguniang Kabataan Federation head Richard Nalupta, initial reports from Metro Manila, where there are 172,010 registered SK voters, showed that the young voters turned up early. He said he received reports that shortly after noon, voting for SK in most areas was almost done.

But he added it was still too early to find out the turnout. "The usual turnout is 70 percent so we are hoping it would be higher," he said.

Manila

Except for isolated incidents of confusion and other minor aberrations, the elections in Manila were widely peaceful and orderly.

Mayor Lito Atienza said voting in the seven barangays earlier declared "hot spots" by local election officers were peaceful, with the deployment of policemen.

Atienza urged candidates to "show our politicians how to concede defeat" and "to support the winners for the good of the city and country."

Voters from dozens of barangays in Sampaloc were plunged into confusion after learning that polling had been suspended in precincts in Gen. Licerio Geronimo and Trinidad Tecson public schools.

Abalos yesterday morning faced protesters from Manila to apologize for mistaking the polling places in Geronimo and Tecson as barangays and for canceling the voting there.

The Comelec later learned that Geronimo and Tecson were two schools servicing 20 barangays. Election in the 20 barangays will be held today.

In Barangay 884 in Manila's sixth district, polling was halted about 2 p.m. because of lack of 100 ballot forms. District election officer Francisco Rosal Jr. quickly requested additional forms from the Comelec National Capital Region office.

In Barangay 647 in San Miguel, which has a large Muslim majority, tension broke out after three busloads of former residents arrived to cast their votes.

The incumbent barangay chair, Suharto Bulig, and his supporters barred the group, saying they were illegible to vote because they had been resettled to Rodriguez, Rizal.

A platoon of policemen later arrived to restore order.

At the P. Gomez Elementary School in Sampaloc, third district election officer Aniceta Laceda had to shoo away candidates who were swarming the precincts as the counting of ballots began at 2 p.m.

Laceda had to threaten the candidates with disqualification to keep them away.

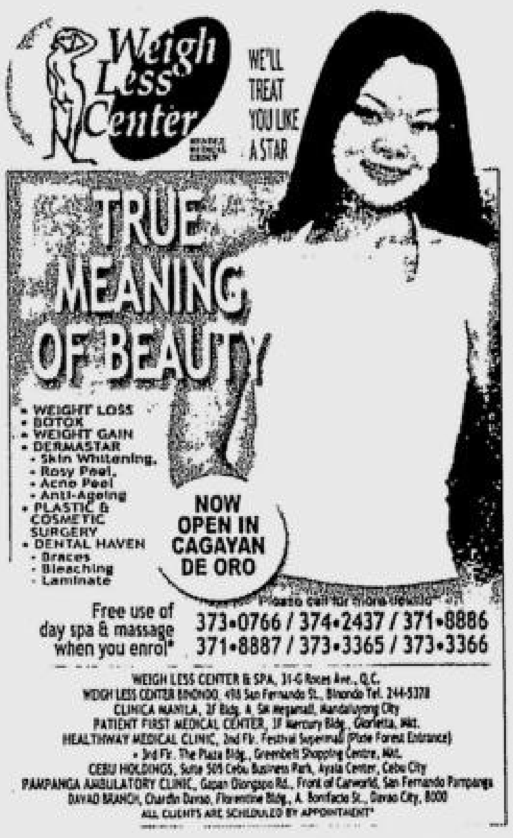
In Barangay 769 in San Andres Bukid, policemen broke up a scuffle between supporters of two rival candidates for barangay chair.

The incumbent chair, Felipe Luisen, claimed a woman tried to harass him by taking photographs of him while he was voting inside the Rafael Palma Elementary School.

He and his supporters chased the photographer but she managed to elude them. The woman passed the camera to Bernardo Carpio, 22, said to be a supporter of Luisen's rival Sonny Macalaba.

METRO POLLS/ A22

WAZZZZUP ?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
CASABLANCA Music Lounge EDSA SHANGRILA PLAZA — GOODAYS BAND MUSIC OF THE 60'S — ☎687-0401 THUR. COOL CHANGE NO COVER CHARGE
Cowboy Grill BIÑAN, LAGUNA — ARPIE & D MULTIVITAMINS PRYZM — FAT 16 ☎ (049) 511.7268
Cowboy Grill BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS — PHYRIGIAN KOOLJACKS — ARPIE & JULY 23 D MULTIVITAMINS ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill ARQUIZA ST. MANILA — THINKERS W/ JOGRAD J BROTHERS/ JAMM EDGE — NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill REMEDIOS ST., MALATE — SERSIDE ICE KENDI — NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C. — SPIRIKITIK MR ROXY — ARPIE & JULY 30 D MULTIVITAMINS ☎936.9757
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY — ON LINE RATED ACT — MULATTO JULY 18 ☎890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA ST — BRIDGES VIEW — MULATTO JULY 25 ☎522-0429
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe · Grill · Restaurant — Q & A BAND — LUTO NI NANAY BUFFET P 295 MON-FRI 6PM-10PM ☎400-7438/39
TUESDAY JULY 16 912-8983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CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 509 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
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True spandau ballet
After The Love Has Gone damage
At Seventeen tara maclean
Hardcore Poetry tavares
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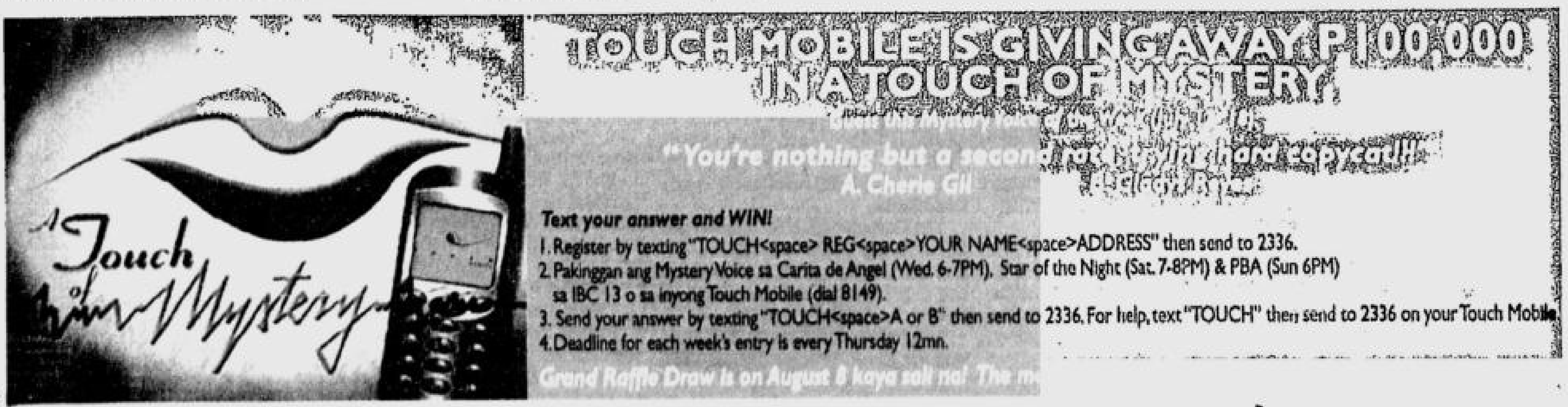
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Napolcom official suspected in ex-cop's slay

By Nelson F. Flores

AN OFFICIAL of the National Police Commission is suspected of being the mastermind in the killing of a former policeman in Antipolo City last Tuesday, according to authorities.

The Napolcom official's name, which was withheld, surfaced after police learned that he recently threatened to kill Felix Medina, 46, in connection with an ongoing land dispute with the alleged owner of the land where the official's rest house was built.

Medina reported the threat, which was made several months ago, to barangay officials, police said.

Investigators claimed that the Napolcom official was involved in some questionable land deals in Antipolo City and is currently at odds with a claimant of the disputed property of which Medina was supposedly the caretaker.

Medina died from gunshot wounds in the head and body. His alleged assailants SPO1 Edmundo Bruno, PO3 Sherwin Sumile, PO1 Jeffe Silva, and PO1 Enrique Cadungog, all members of the 4th Philippine National Police Regional Narcotics Office based in Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba, Laguna, fled after bringing Medina to the hospital, police said.

Police investigation showed that the incident occurred shortly before 8 p.m. last Tuesday along Marcos Highway in Sitio Pandayan, Barangay Inarawan while Medina was walking on his way home.

Witnesses told police that the suspects alighted from a white Nissan Sentra car with registration plates UHV 611 and shot Medina twice.

SPO1 Errol Era, Antipolo City police station desk officer, said the suspects brought Medina to the hospital and then fled. He added that prior to the incident the suspects presented themselves to the Antipolo City police station and informed them about their anti-drug operation in Barangay Inarawan.

PO2 Manuel Padlan, case investigator, said murder charges would be filed against the four policemen.

METROBRIEFS

Arrested in Quezon City

ABOUT 100 people were arrested by Central Police District lawmen for violating the election liquor ban in and around Quezon City, according to Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, CPD director. Each of them will be fined P10,000 for the offense, Tor said. The Omnibus Election Code bans the sale and purchase of liquor prior to an election. The liquor ban was imposed on the first hour of July 14.

Alcuin Papa

Floater in Lambingan

THE BODY of a man was found floating in the Lambingan Creek in Barangay Dona Imelda, Quezon City yesterday. Police said he was an apparent victim of the typhoons that recently hit Metro Manila. The unidentified man was described to be 30 to 35 years old, 5-foot-4 in height, and wearing brown shorts. Police said resident Rudy Jalla found the body in the creek at about 6:30 a.m. Jalla and neighbors pulled the body out of the water. But policemen said they have yet to rule out foul play in the death of the man who, upon close examination, bore several deep cuts in the head.

Alcuin Papa

Killed in Novaliches

JEEPNEY barker Marlon Diolino, 27, used a barbecue stick to kill his own brother Rodolfo, 52, in Quezon City on Sunday, police said. PO1 Joseph Carlos Madrid said Marlon, of Sto Niño Street, Barangay Maligaya, Quezon City, was busy calling for passengers at a jeepney terminal on Geronimo Street, Concha Villa Verde Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City, when his brother Rodolfo arrived at 12:45 p.m. Rodolfo, who was said to be drunk, allegedly elbowed out Marlon and started to call for passengers himself, police said. A fistfight broke out between the brothers. Police said Rodolfo picked up a rock and hit Marlon in the head. Marlon allegedly stabbed Rodolfo near the neck with a barbecue stick. Police said Rodolfo died on the way to the Novaliches General Hospital. Marlon was arrested, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Dead in Bago Bantay

MECHANIC Charlie Teves stabbed dead his landlord Vincent George Redor at their residence on Abra Street, Barangay Ramon Magsaysay, Bago Bantay, Quezon City on Sunday, police said. Redor, 34, was having a drink with Teves, 30, at 5 p.m. when they started to argue about something, said SPO3 Resty de Leon. Teves stabbed Redor twice in the chest, killing him instantly. Teves tried to flee but was quickly cornered by Redor's relatives, who took him to the police station, SPO3 de Leon said.

Alcuin Papa

Stabbed on Araneta Avenue

BUKO vendor Boboy Giovanni, 30, was stabbed dead in his own house on G. Araneta Avenue in Barangay Dona Imelda, Quezon City on Sunday, police said. Vicente Gabriana, 30, was drinking with Giovanni at about 10 p.m. when an argument broke out between them, said PO3 Leo Tabuena. During the argument, Gabriana pulled out a knife and stabbed Giovanni twice, police said. Giovanni died on the way to the UERM Hospital. Policemen are now looking for Gabriana, Tabuena said.

Alcuin Papa

Sprayed in Dagat-Dagatan

PEDICAB driver Rolando Edio was stabbed dead when he pedaled in the flood and accidentally splashed flood water on another driver, Editho Maglente, in Navotas on Friday, said police. Edio, of Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas, was stabbed several times and died on the spot. Policemen said they were looking for Maglente, 38, of Northbay Boulevard South, also in Navotas. They said Edio was pedaling his pedicab on a flooded street near his house when he accidentally sprayed Maglente at about 10 p.m. Friday. Maglente was enraged and he drew a knife, chased Edio and stabbed him repeatedly, police said.

Tina Santos

Fire in Lingunan

ABOUT P10 million worth of property was destroyed in a fire that gutted a plastics factory and warehouse in Valenzuela City Saturday morning. Arson investigators said they were still trying to find out what caused the fire that hit the warehouse of Omega Rho Industrial on Santiago Street in Lingunan, Valenzuela. No one was hurt in the fire which reached the fifth alarm, they said. The plastics packaging firm, owned by a Jovencio Lim, caught fire at 7:20 a.m. and the blaze raged for two hours despite heavy rain. Firefighters contained the fire at 9:11 a.m.

Tina Santos

Stay at NBI, chief tells kidnapping suspect

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco ordered kidnapping suspect and NBI agent Alex T. Advento to stay at the bureau's headquarters "for his own safety."

Advento is one of the suspects charged with the kidnapping of heiress Charmaine Dayco Ong.

"I told him to stay here for his own protection," Wycoco said over the weekend. "This is a security precaution and (for us) to also monitor his daily movement."

The Department of Justice is conducting a preliminary investigation of the alleged involvement of Advento and nine other men in Ong's kidnapping.

Aside from Advento, also charged by the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group were Elmer T. Calixto, Norman Tulabat, Felizardo Pagulalan, a Charlie, and five John Does.

Calixto, who has apparently turned state witness, had implicated Advento in Ong's kidnapping.

Ong was kidnapped last month and held captive in a house at Villasol Subdivision in Barangay Anonas in Angeles City. She reportedly escaped with the help of one of the kidnappers.

Advento was linked to the kidnapping after his NBI ID was found in one of the cars the kidnappers used.

"(Advento) was assigned to Nueva Vizcaya and he reported for a few days there," wycoco said. "But then, he said he had to come back to Manila to take care of his papers.

"It was during that intervening period that the kidnapping happened," Wycoco added.

Advento's ID was found in a red Nissan Sentra (TPE-218) that Ong's alleged kidnappers left on Narra Street at Clarkview subdivision in Barangay Malabanlas, Angeles City.

Advento's ID card was issued in 1996 when Mariano Mison was the NBI director.

The NBI has charged Advento administratively for losing his bureau ID card and for not reporting its loss to his superiors.

Advento's uncle, Ricardo Perez, told investigators that his nephew left the ID in the car after Perez brought him to work sometime ago. The car reportedly belonged to Perez's late wife. Advento does not own a car.

But Wycoco said the car had a "shady past" and that it was a stolen vehicle.

The tragedy and miracle that was Caloy Sanchez

By Rocky Nazareno

PHOTOGRAPHER Caloy Sanchez lived a hard life with no family, no money, and no home. On Saturday, he died alone. He was 48.

But Sanchez had at least two generations of policemen, reporters and photographers covering the Western Police District headquarters on United Nations Avenue that he considered family and whom he endearingly called Sir or *Kapatid* (brother). For the WPD headquarters was also his home.

Sanchez slept on a worn-out folding bed behind the *sarhento de mesa*. When then WPD director Chief Supt. Avelino Razon took over in 1997 and did sweeping renovations at the headquarters, Sanchez had to move to the sidewalk across the street and sleep under the sky.

"I sleep here, I eat here," he said once. "When there's work, I just cross the street."

The former photo correspondent of INQUIRER barely needed anything to get by. Even without money or transportation, he could beat the better-equipped photographers and journalists—and, at times, even the police—to crime scenes. And he earned their respect.

When an anti-narcotics policeman was ambushed and killed in the Muslim community in Quiapo, Sanchez's photo of the grimacing face of the dying cop was on the INQUIRER's front page the next day.

Ironically, his nose for news and inherent misfortune to be at the wrong place at the wrong time nearly did him in. In February 1996, he was on board a passenger jeepney on España Boulevard on his way to an assignment in Quezon City when he heard gunshots from a nearby bank. He alighted from the jeepney and rushed to the bank.

He arrived at the bank just when the robbers were escaping. While Sanchez was peeping into the bank, an overzealous bank official grabbed him and declared him as one of the holdup men.

The ensuing confusion led former WPD Chief Insp. Bienvenido de los Reyes to allegedly beat up Sanchez. This incident sparked nationwide controversy on alleged police brutality.

Former Metro editor Recah Trinidad had written in his column on Feb. 9, 1996 that Sanchez had the ability to subsist on crackers alone.

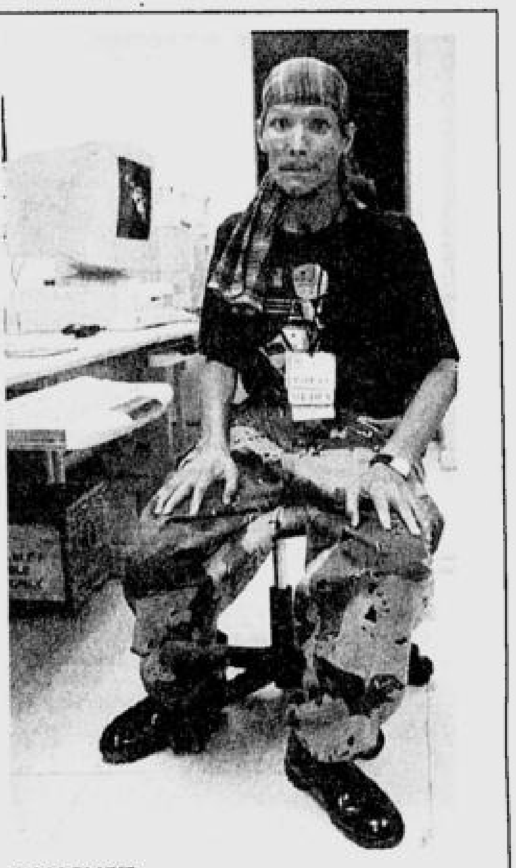
"Streetwise, Caloy knows that if you overfed yourself today, you start longing for more food the next days," Trinidad wrote. "And where the hell would you get all the food you'd be hungering for the next day?"

Trinidad went on to describe the tragedy and miracle that was Caloy.

"Sanchez is one accident Philippine journalism badly needs. He can't read. But he can read the world in pictures, and very honestly, too. At least the guy knows when he's being made a stooge by men in classy suits...Hungry as he is, Caloy can't stomach hypocrites...All the guy needs is a piece of biscuit."

And probably, a piece of the sky.

(No one is authorized to collect donations for Sanchez.)



SANCHEZ

Man charged . . .

From page A21

area and did not pay for it.

The guard said he had seen De Leon take the chocolate bar at 4:20 p.m. on July 4. He said De Leon slipped the chocolate in his pocket, went back to the glassware section where he was assigned and ate the chocolate.

The guard said he confronted De Leon and found the chocolate bar wrapper in one of his pant pockets.

De Leon was brought to the police for investigation.

Liaison officer Ralph Ortillano represented Rustan's in filing the charges against De Leon.

Metro polls . . .

From page A21

According to SPO1 Teodulo Cadiz and PO3 Benjamin Custodio, Luisen and his supporters ganged upon Carpio and boxed him on the nape before turning him over to the lawmen.

Carpio denied any involvement in the harassment and said he was preparing food for the poll watchers when the unidentified woman gave him the camera.

A leader of a Muslim cause-oriented group, who asked not to be identified, told the Inquirer that drug money was being used to buy votes in the barangays in the Quiapo Islamic Center.

The source said people were being paid as much as P1,000 each to vote for particular candidates for chair and barangay councilor.

Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod, Western Police District spokesperson, said more than 1,000 policemen were deployed in Manila polling precincts as early as 4 a.m.

Quezon City

The election officers in Quezon City's four districts agreed that the elections went smoothly, disrupted only by the usual minor problems such as missing names in the voters' list and confusion over precinct numbers.

They said most of these problems occurred because some voters gave up after failing to find their names in three precincts, while others were taken off the voters' list for varying reasons such as failure to vote in the past two elections.

Quezon City has 142 barangays and 1,105,714 registered voters. More than half a million voters come from Commonwealth, the city's biggest barangay.

Elections were suspended in barangays Tatalon, Do□a Imelda, and Mariblo in the San Francisco del Monte area due to floods.

Some Tatalon residents, however, trooped to the Comelec office in the Quezon City Hall compound in the morning and asked that the election in their area be conducted since floodwater had subsided and evacuees had left the school buildings.

But District IV election officer Evelyn Bautista said only the national Comelec en banc could decide on the matter.

The election officers, however, had different observations on the turnout in their districts.

While Bautista said a relatively big crowd went to the polling places in District II, election officer Romeo Lobregat of District II predicted that the turnout this year would be lower than in the previous elections because of the rains.

There were also reports of electioneering or cheating, even in Commonwealth where a total of 16 candidates were running for barangay chair and 65 for barangay councilors.

In District III, there was a little delay at the start of the voting when some watchers were not allowed to enter the polling place in Barangay West Kamias.

A teacher in Barangay Malaya was accused of violating election rules when she collected and first set aside the ballots instead of dropping them into the ballot box as voters submitted them.

Makati City

Reports of flying voters made up the bulk of the complaints in Makati City.

As of 3:15 p.m., no reports of violence or massive election fraud had been brought to police, according to Supt. Jose Ramon Salido of the Makati Police's Criminal Investigation Division.

Makati police deployed 261 officers and 59 augmentation forces to the city's 33 barangays, said Major Eduardo Balmaceda of the operations department. There was no election delay, he said, because as of 4:30 a.m., all election paraphernalia had been brought to their designated stations.

Officers brought to the police station Bella A. Abrentis, Abrentis said she was just waiting for a ride on P. Burgos Street after casting her vote when a man on board a motorcycle, whom she believed to be an election watcher, approached her and accused her of being a flying voter.

She said election officers might have mistaken her for a flying voter after she asked several people for her polling precinct.

As of noontime in Barangay Forbes Park, the turnout was a bit slow, at 945 out of 3,238 registered voters. Officials said they expected more voters in the afternoon.

In Barangay Bel-Air, the elections were peaceful and uneventful, according to Ricardo Rosario, security desk officer. He said this might be because all candidates for barangay chair and for kagawad were running unopposed.

Parañaque City

About 2,000 teachers boycotted and nearly paralyzed the elections in Parañaque City after the Comelec "illegally" rearranged their precinct assignments.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) urged Comelec's Abalos to declare an election failure in key parts of the city where elections were either delayed or suspended due to the absence of teachers.

The city's public school teachers went up in arms after election officer Calixtro Ramos on Sunday supposedly changed those assigned to District 1 with those from District 2.

The idea, according to a source from the city's Comelec, was to prevent possible electioneering since the teachers were familiar with the people from their original assignments.

ACT director Raymund Villanueva said Ramos' order was illegal since it was issued only a day before the elections. It should have been made as early as May 31 as required by Comelec rules, he said.

As a result of the boycott, hundreds of residents had to wait for hours to cast their votes. Others decided to just go home after rain started to pour.

As of 1 p.m., the election in at least 72 precincts mostly in barangays Marcelo Green, San Dionisio, and San Antonio had yet to be conducted, Comelec records showed.

Villanueva's group reported that the voting in a number of precincts at the Tambo Main Elementary School, Baclaran Elementary School, and Baclaran Central were suspended.

The Comelec tried to cushion the effects of the boycott by supposedly forcing teachers on the payroll of the city hall to take the place of those who did not show up.

Muntinlupa City Rep. Ruffy Biazon said the elections in his district were generally peaceful and orderly.

But he said there were instances of disenfrachised voters because they could not find their precincts.

Biazon said this might affect the turnout of the voting in Muntinlupa, which has 180,00 voters from its nine barangays.

Camanava

In the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela (Camanava) area, the Northern Police District director, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, said no untoward incident was reported during the casting of votes, although at least 50 people were arrested for drinking in public places in violation of the liquor ban.

Some incidents of illegal possession of deadly weapons were also reported in the Camanava area.

In Caloocan City, authorities arrested two suspected flying voters who are now facing charges of violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

Joselito Ramilla, 22, of General Tinio Street, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan, was arrested for allegedly trying to cast a vote on behalf of his brother Jovencio in the Morning Breeze Elementary School.

Danilo Dumpe, 40, a Tamaraw FX barker and resident of Grace Park, Caloocan, was also arrested for trying to cast a vote in Barangay 120 although he was not a registered voter there.

Except in Caloocan City, many parts of the Camanava area were still underwater, which prompted the Comelec to defer the voting in 10 barangays in Malabon, 17 in Valenzuela and 7 in Navotas.

Eastern M. Manila, Rizal

Except for the usual confusion, the election was peaceful in eastern Metro Manila, comprised of San Juan town and the cities of Mandaluyong, Pasig and Marikina.

In Rizal province, no election-related violence was reported.

In Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong City, a number of voters did not find their names in the voters' list.

Anthony Redaza, 33, of Vergara said there were instances when voters were "pressured" into voting for candidates other than their choices.

Reelectionist barangay chair Lily de la Cruz said the names of their supporters disappeared from the voters' list.

Teresa Berna, a board of elections inspector in precinct 884-A of Vergara Elementary School, denied that names were missing from the voters' list. She said most voters didn't know where to look.

She said the listing was not alphabetical but was geographically based. "People who lived in a certain street are listed together in one precinct," she explained.

In Marikina City, the local government ejected 97 families or some 1,600 evacuees from the Malanday School last Saturday to make way for the election. The evacuees were relocated to a nearby covered court.

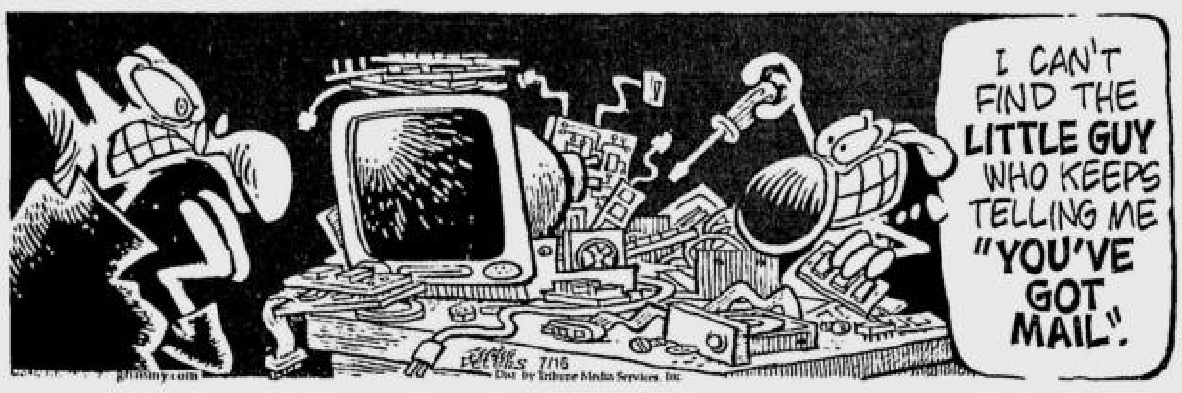
In Rizal province, Senior Supt. Carlito Dimaano, Rizal Provincial Police Office director, said that even in Antipolo City, considered an election hot spot, no untoward incident was noted.

Dimaano said that except for the usual sightings of armed men, believed to be members of the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of the communist New People's Army, in the mountainous Barangay San Juan, no other incidents were reported in Antipolo.

With reports from Blanche S. Rivera, Juliet L. Javellana

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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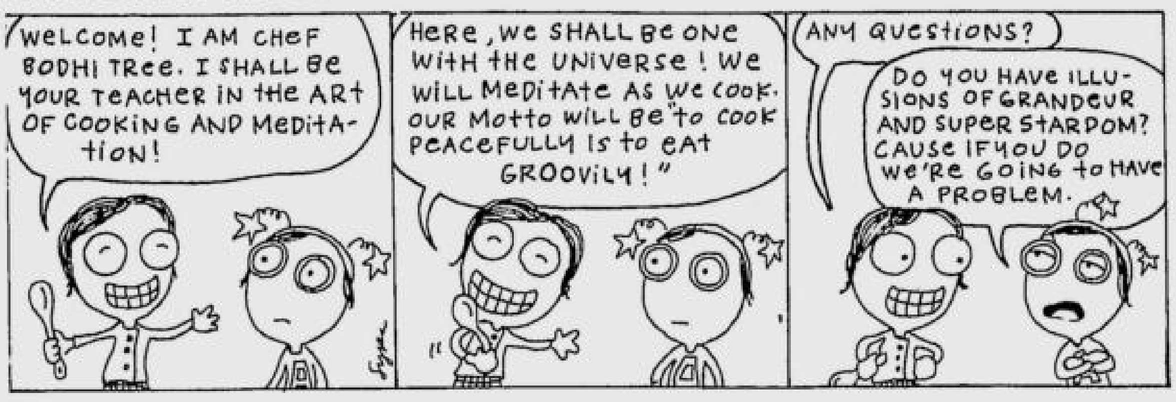
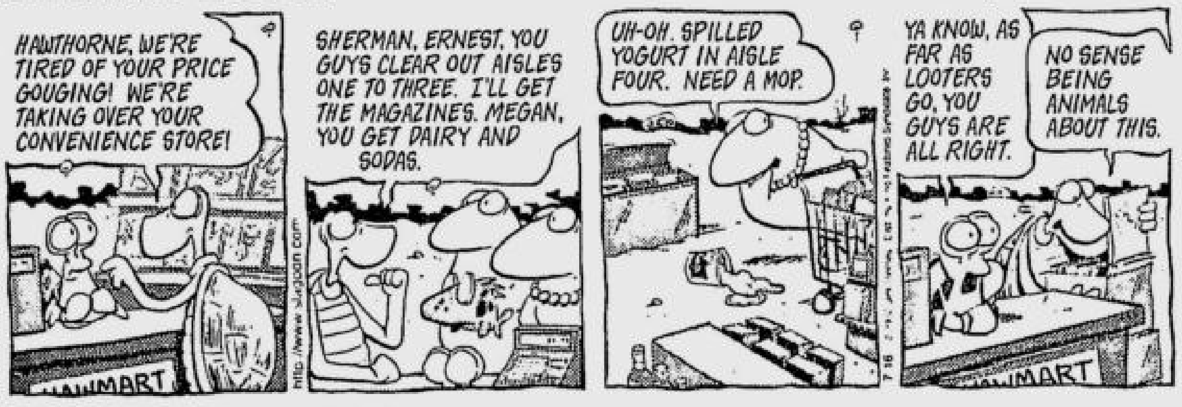
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELCOME! I AM CHEF BODHI TREE. I SHALL BE YOUR TEACHER IN THE ART OF COOKING AND MEDITATION!
HERE, WE SHALL BE ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE! WE WILL MEDITATE AS WE COOK. OUR MOTTO WILL BE "TO COOK PEACEFULLY IS TO EAT GROOVILY!"
ANY QUESTIONS?
DO YOU HAVE ILLUSIONS OF GRANDEUR AND SUPER STARDOM? CAUSE IF YOU DO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM.

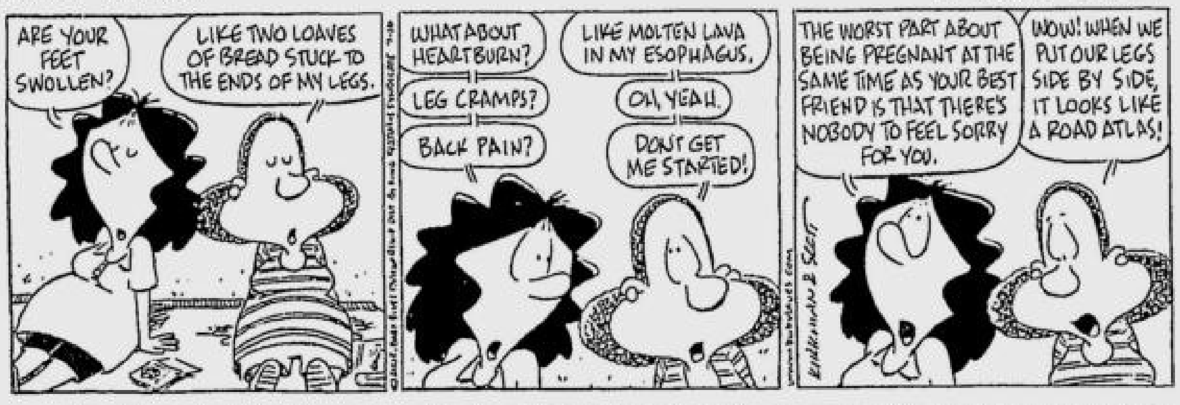
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE, WE'RE TIRED OF YOUR PRICE GOUGING! WE'RE TAKING OVER YOUR CONVENIENCE STORE!
SHERMAN, ERNEST, YOU GUYS CLEAR OUT AISLES ONE TO THREE. I'LL GET THE MAGAZINES. MEGAN, YOU GET DAIRY AND SODAS.
UH-OH. SPILLED YOGURT IN AISLE FOUR. NEED A MOP.
YA KNOW, AS FAR AS LOOTERS GO, YOU GUYS ARE ALL RIGHT.
NO SENSE BEING ANIMALS ABOUT THIS.
MART
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ARE YOUR FEET SWOLLEN?
LIKE TWO LOAVES OF BREAD STUCK TO THE ENDS OF MY LEGS.
WHAT ABOUT HEARTBURN?
LIKE MOLTEN LAVA IN MY ESOPHAGUS.
LEG CRAMPS?
OH, YEAH.
BACK PAIN?
DON'T GET ME STARTED!
THE WORST PART ABOUT BEING PREGNANT AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUR BEST FRIEND IS THAT THERE'S NOBODY TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
WOW! WHEN WE PUT OUR LEGS SIDE BY SIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE A ROAD ATLAS!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Phoebe Cates, Lorraine Chase, Barbara Stanwyck, Pinchas Zuchermann

Happy Birthday: Your ability to appreciate and understand others will help you to make new friends. Greater interaction with institutions will open your eyes to the possibilities that exist. This can be a time of renewal. Whatever you put out, you will be sure to get just as much in return. Your numbers are 10, 17, 28, 31, 36, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't try to remake a loved one. Focus on improving yourself. Renovations to your home will turn out fine, but be sure you have the approval of those you live with before you start.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can draw up and sign contracts and agreements today. You will have to show responsibility to get the recognition you want but if you do, the rewards will be great.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will instinctively know what changes to make in order to enhance your appearance. Making physical changes will be successful but expensive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be moody and sensitive regarding any personal matters. You may experience psychological problems with someone in your family. You can expect a visitor to drop by uninvited.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will attract partners today who will contribute to whatever your cause might be. You will actively search for new ways of making improvements to yourself and to those you care about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have concerns regarding your reputation and social standing today. You will have to work hard in order to stabilize your personal security. You will have to help an older person with a problem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Terminate relationships that are no longer bringing you the stimulation you require. You will be more attracted to unusual individuals who are secretive and mysterious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be lucky with investments as long as you stay away from joint ventures. You will fall heir to secret information that is sure to help you make the right choices with regard to your money matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pick up the phone and make contact with someone you miss from your past. Renewed friendships will bring back memories. You'll benefit through the company you keep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make some changes to your residence, or consider making a move. You will meet someone who is fascinating to talk to because of his or her knowledge in an area that interests you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will feel the need to start making personal changes. Your desire to do as you please will lead to a different lifestyle. It is probably time to give up something that you have outgrown.

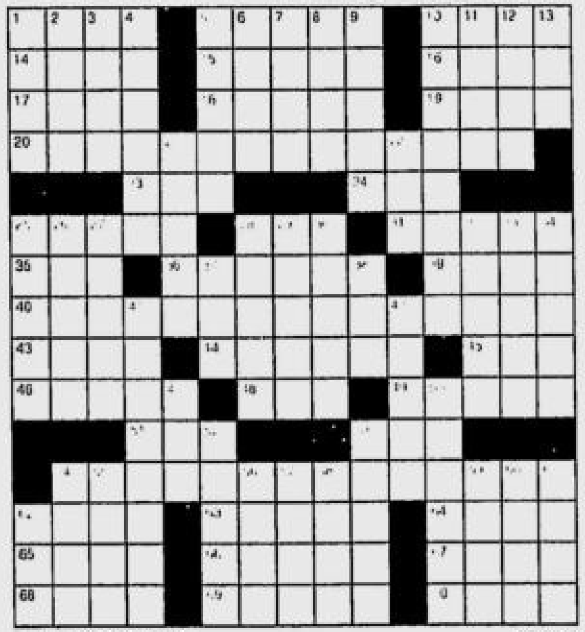
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Overwork and overindulgence will lead to health problems. You will have to exercise control when dealing with financial or legal matters. Disagreements are likely if you are trying to help someone with his or her personal papers.

Birthday Baby: You will be tremendously curious about everything throughout life. You can become angry easily and will never let anyone get away with something you don't agree with.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 One of the Three Bears
5 Gauges
10 Arm or leg
14 High cards
15 Plus feature
16 Why, the very __!
17 Palm-face encounter
18 Infamous Helmsley
19 Donkey or King follower
20 Weirdly unconventional
23 Scheider or Rogers
24 Devotee
25 Cruise ship
28 Notable time
31 Islamic holy city
35 I love: Lat.
36 Most rational
39 Wearing loafers
40 Did everything right
43 Mythical monster
44 Block
45 Bachelor's last words
46 Staggers
48 Weighty weight
49 Dimwit
51 Drink like a cat
53 "__ the ramparts..."
54 Took one step toward success
62 __ mater
63 Fit of terror
64 Answer-man Trebek
65 Bridal netting
66 New York city
67 Unit of thunder?
68 Pot builder
69 One Fonda
70 Saint's glow



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

7/16/02

DOWN
1 El __, TX
2 Rights monitoring org.
3 Bug [illegible]
4 [illegible]
5 Linger
6 Listener's comment
7 From then on
8 Spring season
9 Group of employees
10 Semblance
11 Graven image
12 Repair
13 Capture
21 Scandinavian
22 Descartes' conclusion
25 Unions collectively
26 Picture
27 __ Dame University
28 Legislate
29 Like nostalgic fashions
30 Gray-faced
32 Dept. head
33 Residential unit
34 Attachment
37 Commercials
38 Punter's digit
41 Revealing
42 Not yet [illegible]
47 Converted
50 Jerry of "Law & Order"
52 Appear suddenly
53 Lyricist Hammerstein
54 Narrow
[illegible] valley
55 Bypass
56 Kismet
57 1st letter
58 School in Houston
59 __ breve
60 Close tightly
61 Industrial show
[illegible]

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	H	I	B	■	C	A	M	S	■	D	A	M	S
A	R	E	N	A	■	O	L	I	O	■	E	V	A	N
P	E	R	K	S	■	V	E	N	D	■	M	I	R	A
S	A	C	■	S	P	E	C	T	A	C	U	L	A	R
■	■	■	U	N	I	O	N	■	■	O	R	A	T	E
M	O	L	E	S	T	■	D	I	S	C	■	■	■	■
A	L	E	R	T	■	L	E	V	I	A	T	H	A	N
R	E	A	D	■	B	E	B	E	S	■	O	U	Z	O
M	O	N	S	T	R	O	U	S	■	M	R	M	O	M
■	■	■	■	E	A	S	T	■	R	E	M	O	V	E
R	E	N	E	S	■	■	■	L	O	D	E	N	■	■
E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	I	N	E	■	G	E	E
B	O	S	C	■	J	E	R	K	■	V	I	O	L	A
U	P	T	O	■	A	M	I	E	■	A	D	U	L	T
T	E	S	T	■	R	O	O	D	■	C	A	S	E	S

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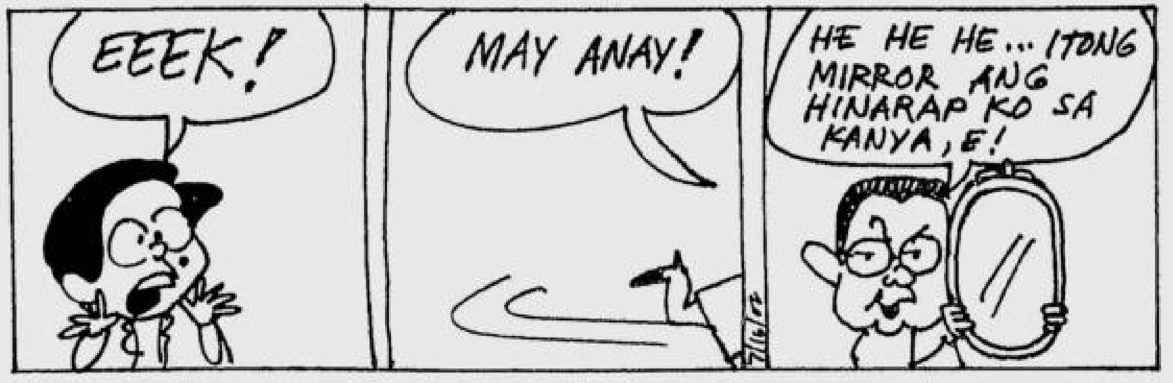
7/16/02

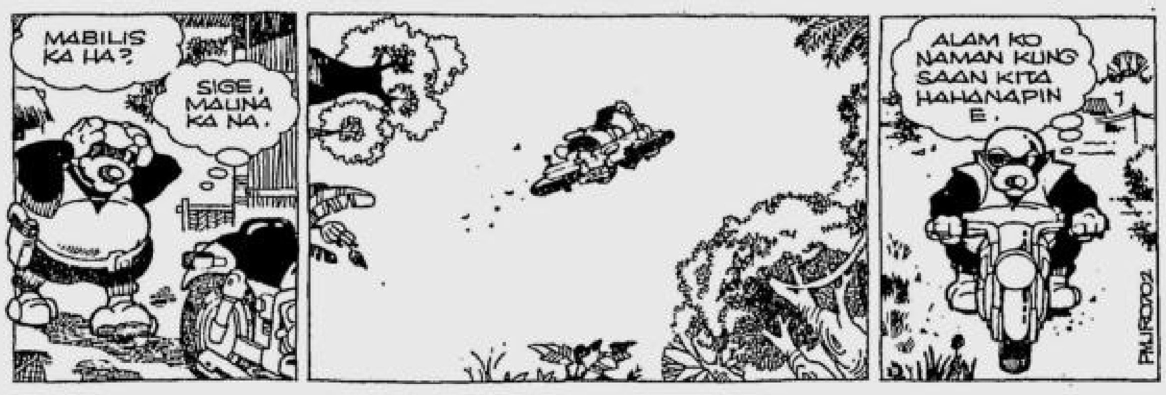
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


EEEK!
MAY ANAY!
HE HE HE... ITONG MIRROR ANG HINARAP KO SA KANYA, E!

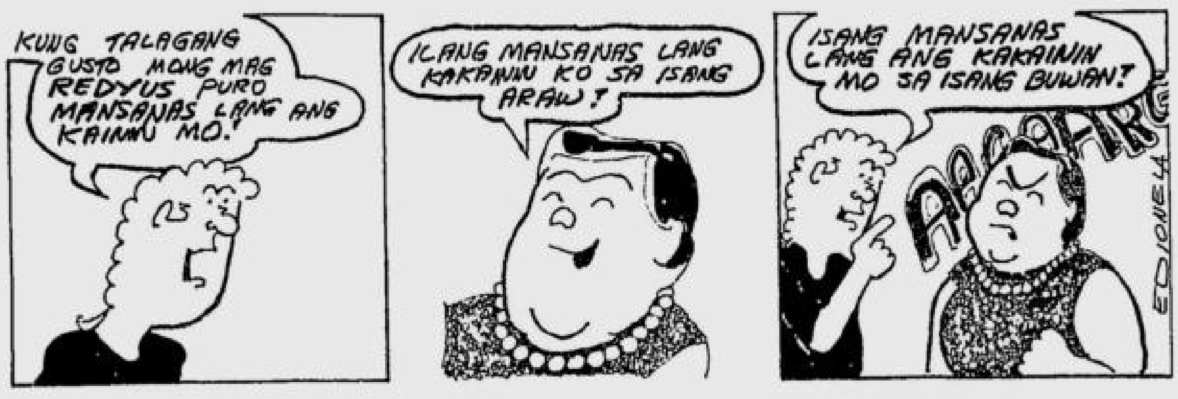
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MABILIS KA HA?
SIGE, MAUNA KA NA.
ALAM KO NAMAN KUNG SAAN KITA HAHANAPIN E.
PMJR2002

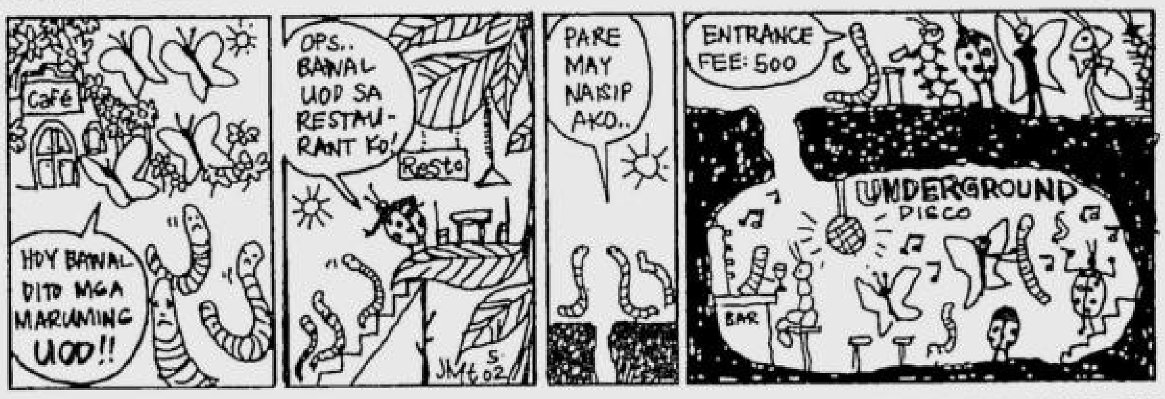
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNG TALAGANG GUSTO MONG MAG REDYUS PURO MANSANAS LANG ANG KAININ MO.
ILANG MANSANAS LANG KAKAININ KO SA ISANG ARAW?
ISANG MANSANAS LANG ANG KAKAININ MO SA ISANG BUWAN!
AAAAHRG
EDIONELA

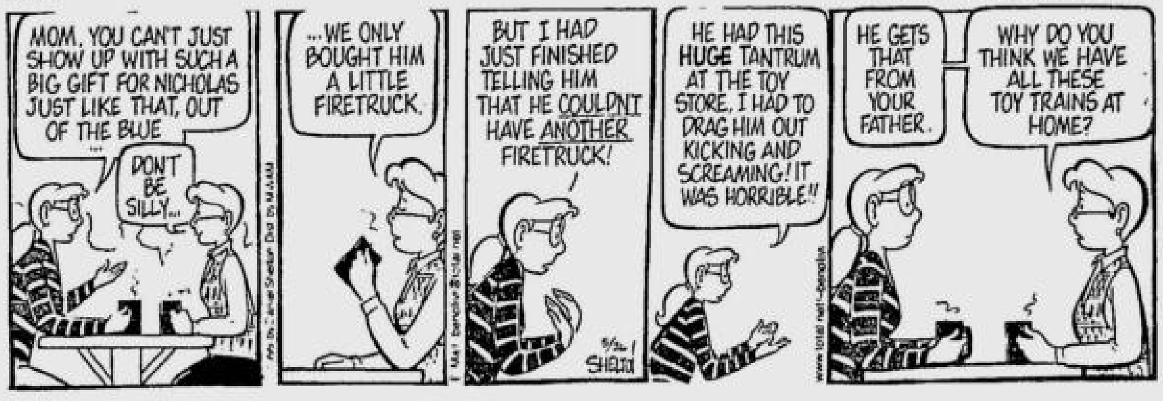
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


Café
HOY BAWAL DITO MGA MARUMING UOD!!
OPS.. BAWAL UOD SA RESTAURANT KO!
Resto
PARE MAY NAISIP AKO..
ENTRANCE FEE: 500
UNDERGROUND DISCO
BAR

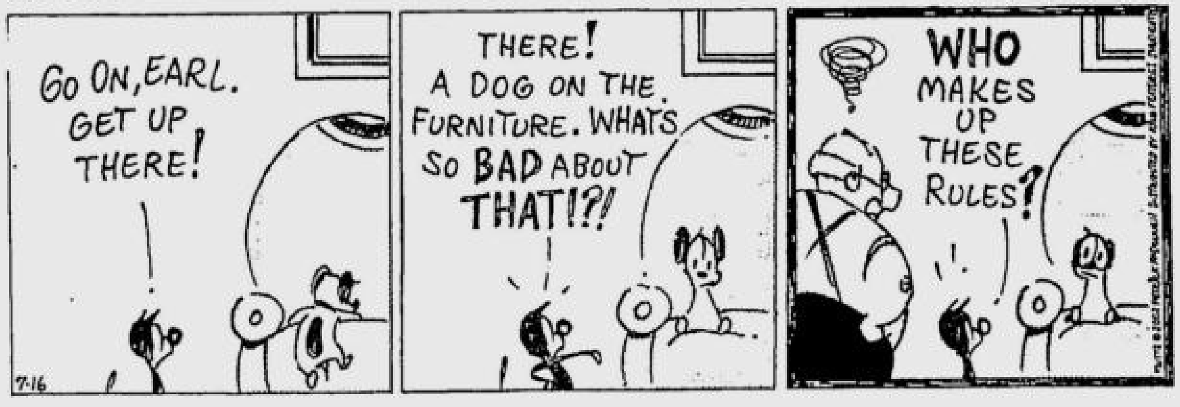
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOM, YOU CAN'T JUST SHOW UP WITH SUCH A BIG GIFT FOR NICHOLAS JUST LIKE THAT, OUT OF THE BLUE
DON'T BE SILLY...
...WE ONLY BOUGHT HIM A LITTLE FIRETRUCK.
BUT I HAD JUST FINISHED TELLING HIM THAT HE COULDN'T HAVE ANOTHER FIRETRUCK!
HE HAD THIS HUGE TANTRUM AT THE TOY STORE. I HAD TO DRAG HIM OUT KICKING AND SCREAMING! IT WAS HORRIBLE!
HE GETS THAT FROM YOUR FATHER.
WHY DO YOU THINK WE HAVE ALL THESE TOY TRAINS AT HOME?

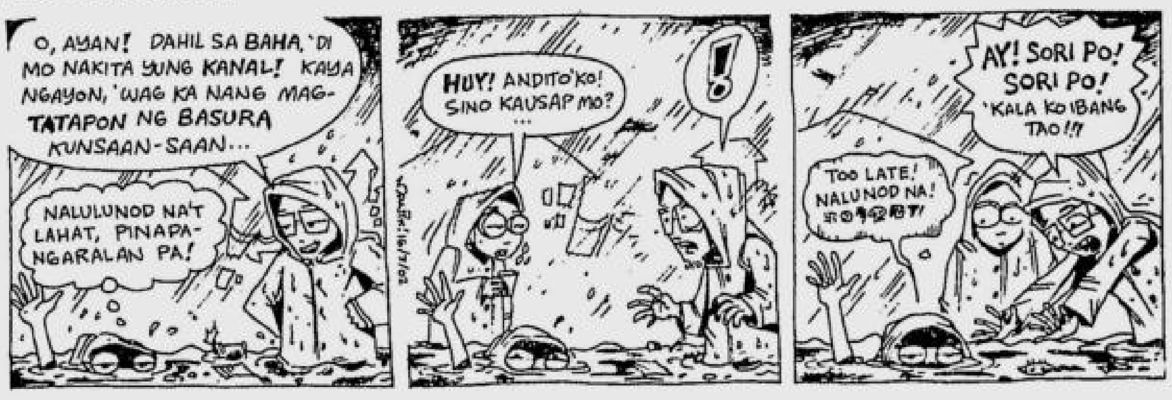
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GO ON, EARL. GET UP THERE!
THERE! A DOG ON THE FURNITURE. WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT!?!
WHO MAKES UP THESE RULES?
7-16

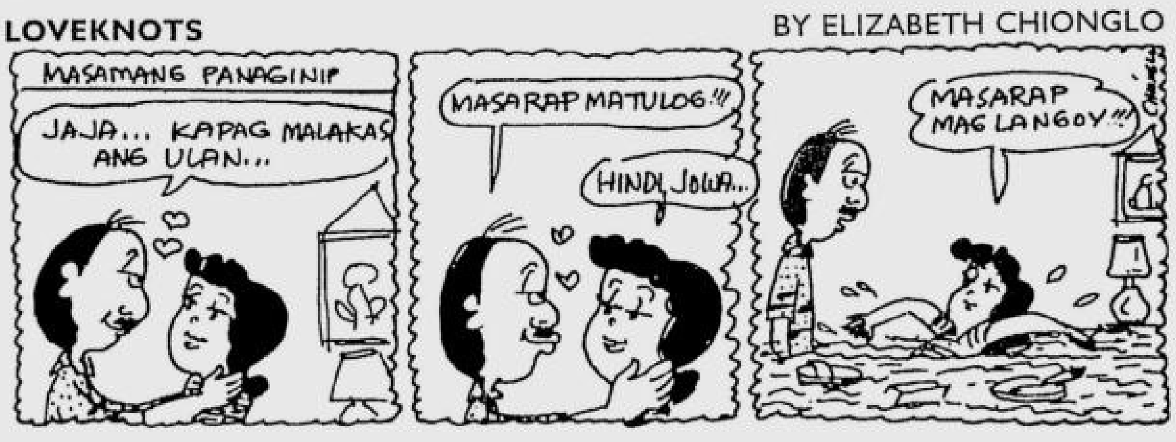
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O, AYAN! DAHIL SA BAHA, 'DI MO NAKITA 'YUNG KANAL! KAYA NGAYON, 'WAG KA NANG MAGTATAPON NG BASURA KUNSAAN-SAAN...
NALULUNOD NA'T LAHAT, PINAPANGARALAN PA!
HUY! ANDITO'KO! SINO KAUSAP MO?
!
AY! SORI PO! SORI PO! 'KALA KO IBANG TAO!!
TOO LATE! NALUNOD NA!

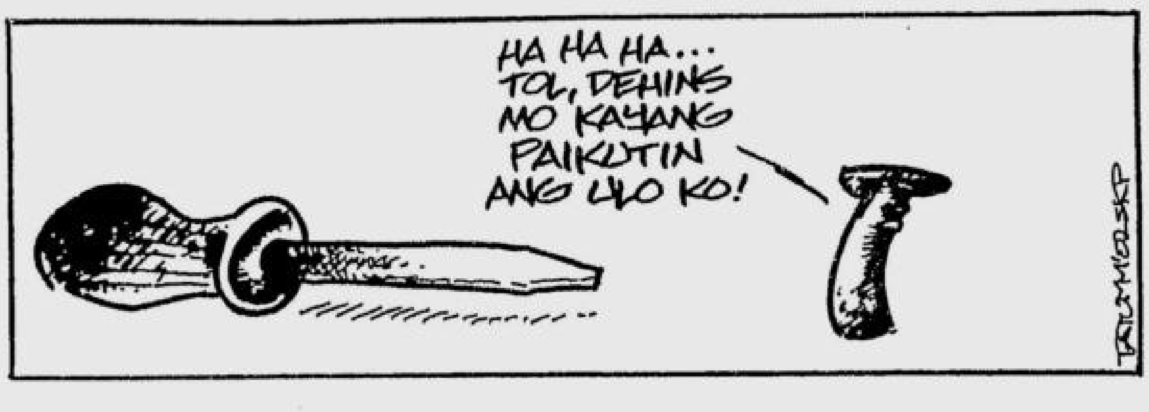
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MASAMANG PANAGINIP
JAJA... KAPAG MALAKAS ANG ULAN...
MASARAP MATULOG!!!
HINDI, JOWA...
MASARAP MAG LANGOY!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HA HA HA... TOL, DEHINS MO KAYANG PAIKUTIN ANG ULO KO!
TATUM/MOLSKP

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 THE POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
4 MINORITY REPORT

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 POWERPUFF GIRLS
2 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3 HIGH CRIMES 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
4 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
5 BAD COMPANY
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 BIG FAT LIAR

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 THE KING IS ALIVE
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 IRIS
ONSTAGE
PAROKYA NI EDGAR @ ONSTAGE JULY 19 (FRI.) - 9 PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 POWERPUFF GIRLS 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20
HIGH CRIMES 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
3 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20
4 BIG FAT LIAR 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20
5 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 THE POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
4 BIG FAT LIAR
5 MINORITY REPORT

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 (SDDS) BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS) THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 GOLD (DTS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BIG FAT LIAR
6 GOLD (SDDS) MINORITY REPORT
7 GOLD (DOLBY) HIGH CRIMES
8 FOREVERMORE
9 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
10 JUST VISITING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS) DRAGONFLY
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274
1 SUGAT
2 HIGH CRIMES
3 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 BAD COMPANY
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 KATAWAN MO . .
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MINORITY REPORT
5 SUGAT

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 FOREVERMORE
3 MINORITY REPORT
4 HIGH CRIMES
5 SUGAT
6 POWER PUFF GIRLS
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13
1 HIGH CRIMES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FOREVERMORE
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 BATANG MAGDALENA
3

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) HIGH CRIME
2
3
4 SUGAT
5 SLACKERS
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 (DTS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
8 (SDDS) BAD COMPANY
9 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 SUGAT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 FOREVERMORE
2 HIGH CRIME
3 BAD COMPANY
4 (SDDS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
5 SUGAT
6 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
7 (DTS) HIGH CRIME
8 KATAWAN MO . . .
9 TAMPISAW

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS) HIGH CRIME
6 SUGAT
7 (DOLBY) POWER PUFF GIRLS
8 BAD COMPANY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 SUGAT
3 (DTS) POWER PUFF GIRLS
4 FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS) HIGH CRIME

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 SUGAT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 SUGAT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson SUGAT
Lords NAGIINIT NA HAYOP
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FOREVERMORE
2 HIGH CRIME
3 MINORITY REPORT

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
2 FOREVERMORE
3 SUGAT
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 RESERVE

Berma
TEL. 8792030 / 8792029
1 SUGAT
2 MINORITY REPORT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 . 534.2198
1 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 FOREVERMORE
3 (DTS) JUST VISITING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 JUST VISITING
2 (DTS) FOREVERMORE
3 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
4 SLACKERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 FOREVERMORE
2 (DOLBY) JUST VISITING
3 (DTS) MINORITY REPORT
4 SLACKERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 FOREVERMORE
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 (DOLBY) THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) HIGH CRIME
2 LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS) SUGAT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
2 SLACKERS
3 (DTS) JUST VISITING
4 FOREVERMORE
5 KATAWAN MO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 FOREVERMORE
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 FOREVERMORE
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 TAMPISAW
2 FOREVERMORE
3 MINORITY REPORT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JIHAD WARRIOR
2 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 PANIC ROOM

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2 JUST VISITING
3 (DTS) LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
4 MONSTER'S BALL

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL
EVERYTHING YOU TRUST. EVERYTHING YOU KNOW
MAY BE A LIE.
HIGH CRIMES

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 BAD COMPANY
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 HIGH CRIMES
4 POWERPUFF GIRLS
5 MINORITY REPORT
6 FOREVERMORE
7 SUGAT
8 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 FOREVERMORE
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 POWERPUFF GIRLS
4 SLACKERS
5 HIGH CRIMES
6 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 BAD COMPANY
10 JUST VISITING

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2 JUST VISITING
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 BAD COMPANY
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 FOREVERMORE
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
10 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
11 SLACKERS
12 KATAWAN MO . . .

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 BAD COMPANY
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 POWERPUFF GIRLS
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 JUST VISITING
8 SLACKERS
9 FOREVERMORE
10 SUGAT
11 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
12 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 JUST VISITING
2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 MINORITY REPORT
4 SUM OF ALL FEARS
5 BIG FAT LIAR
6 HIGH CRIMES
7 SLACKERS
8 SUGAT
9 FOREVERMORE
10 BAD COMPANY
11 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
12 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452
1 BAD COMPANY
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 SUGAT
4 FOREVERMORE
5 BIG FAT LIAR
6 POWERPUFF GIRLS
7 HIGH CRIMES
8 MINORITY REPORT
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 BAD COMPANY
3 POWERPUFF GIRLS
4 BIG FAT LIAR
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 FOREVERMORE
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 MINORITY REPORT
10 SUGAT

SM CITY CEBU
2313878
1 BAD COMPANY
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4 BENEATH LOCHNESS
5 AMELIE
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 FOREVERMORE
8 MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 FOREVERMORE
2 CLOSED
3 FRUIT IS SWELLING
4 BAD COMPANY
5 MINORITY REPORT
6 CROSSROADS
7 CLOSED
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 MINORITY REPORT
2 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3 JUST VISITING
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 TAMPISAW
6 FOREVERMORE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 FOREVERMORE
2 HIGH CRIMES
3 POWERPUFF GIRLS
4 MINORITY REPORT

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 FOREVERMORE
4 MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 BAD COMPANY
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 FOREVERMORE
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 MONSTER'S BALL
6 MINORITY REPORT

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781 85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX HIGH CRIME
2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 HIGH CRIME
4 BIG FAT LIAR
5 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
6 MINORITY REPORT
7 FOREVERMORE
8 JUST VISITING
9 BAD COMPANY
10 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 HIGH CRIME
2 FOREVERMORE
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
5 BAD COMPANY
6 POWERPUFF GIRLS
7 MINORITY REPORT

Metro East - Marcos Hway 682- 8193 / 8280
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Jessica and David lose first baby

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MY HEART goes out to **Jessica Rodriguez**, who was three months pregnant when she suffered a miscarriage a few weeks ago. It was supposed to be her firstborn with **David Bunevacz**.

The ever sprightly Jessica suddenly went in seclusion for a few days to grieve her loss. "I really got so depressed especially when I saw David cry," she said. "I just locked myself up in the room. I was not in the mood to work or talk to anyone. But after a while I had to help myself and snap out of my sorry state."

Indeed, life has a way of leveling things off .

If it's any consolation, it is David and Jessica's successful marriage, and the rosy career of her in-demand ward.

Patricia Javier who's off to Hollywood, and David's booming business are more than enough reasons for Jessica not to stop believing in blessings. You lose some and win some. You can never win it all and you also can't lose it all, so life ain't that bad, huh?

Ces hip at 40

I HAD the time of my life at **Ces Drilon**'s birthday bash and magazine shop-art gallery opening. It was a well-attended affair, which only goes to show how well-loved Ces is.

The crème de la crème of society and news department bigwigs were present. Ces wasn't garbed in her usual corporate get-up. She wore hip denim jeans and a funky black flowing back-less top. I teased her, "Wow! Looks like you're attending a techno dance party!"

She shot back, "After you wrote in your column that I'm turning 40, I felt kinda pressured not to look 40. This is an old pair of jeans which I just had **Rajo Laurel** tattooed."

Such style. Imagine having geometric tattoos on your denims instead of on your skin. In lieu of a ribbon-cutting ceremony, pictures of the guests were placed inside a time capsule which can be unearthed a thousand years from now.

The poetry-reading session was so thought-provoking. I read my own composition, "Riddles from the Heart." Love can sometimes turn into a bad joke, huh? Will let you in on it next time. Kudos, Ces!

Incredible True Faith

ALLOW me to turn into a fan just for once. Congrats to True Faith for an incredible concert at Greenbelt Onstage, presented by Maxi-Media. It was a rainy Friday night and yet Greenbelt was packed. Lead vocalist **Medwin Marfil**'s powerful voice never went off-key nor faltered all throughout the 2½-hour show. He was bursting with energy as always. Jumping around while singing can make you lose your breath. How does he maintain the cool sound of his voice?

Catch True Faith on Wednesday, July 17, at Friends @ d Square at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong.

A subdued Jessa

DINGDONG Avanzado and his wife **Jessa Zaragosa** are fresh from Guam where they launched the Dingdong Avanzado Golf Classic with some celebrities as participants. The top winners were **Danny Javier** of Apo Hiking and **Philip Salvador**. The event was such a success that they plan to have another one next year, hopefully in Hawaii.

Jessa gushed, "We were all able to bond because after the tournament there was a storm so we were all stuck in the hotel. We could not go shopping or restohopping. That was the best part of the trip."

I teased her, "So is there already a baby made in Guam?" She giggled. "I wish! We're planning to have a baby by early next year so we got to keep working at it to complete our family."

For now their "baby" is an all-duet album which is still in the planning stage.

Being Mrs. Dingdong Avanzado has surely subdued Jessa. "Before I married him, I used to feel like life was like being in a pressure cooker," she said. "I worked myself to death. He has changed my outlook in life. Now I realize the people reaching out to me before really needed my help. I'm more open and positive now. I owe it all to Dingdong. He makes me feel like a queen because at home he lets me decide how to run the household. He's more than what I dreamed of for a husband."

I must say that Jessa has really changed for the better now that she's Dingdong's better half. I should know because we used to have a little tiff and I'm really glad that her marriage has paved the way for our friendship to bloom again.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Lotus Eaters in Manila

THE LOTUS Eaters, composed of Peter Coyle and Jeremy Kelly, will perform in an intimate neo-acoustic session at Rockwell Tent on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 9 p.m.

Joining The Lotus Eaters in the Manila show are True Faith and Rivermaya.

In the Eighties, the duo made big waves in the music scene with several New Wave tracks, including "You," "German Girl," "Out on Your Own," and "It Hurts." They scored their first hit in 1983, "The First Picture of You."

The Manila show's repertoire will include cuts from their post-punk, neo-acoustic 1998 recording sessions.

The Lotus Eaters records are available at Tower Records, Music One and O Music Store. Their show will be presented by MYX of Studio 23 in cooperation with Galaxy Records.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BIG FAT LIAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SUGAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SANA TOTOO NA / SENSES
ODEON	HIGH CRIMES
ODEON-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	SUGAT
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	SHOWTIME / JASON-X
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	SUGAT
REMAR-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
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B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
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CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
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UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
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UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
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Eleven bus passengers take shelter from the elements in an abandoned desert town. As rescue grows more remote by the day an idea emerges: why not stage a play? However, the choice of King Lear plunges this disparate group of travelers into turmoil as they struggle to overcome nature's wrath and their own mortality.

Best Actress (Leigh), 2000 Tokyo International Film Festival

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

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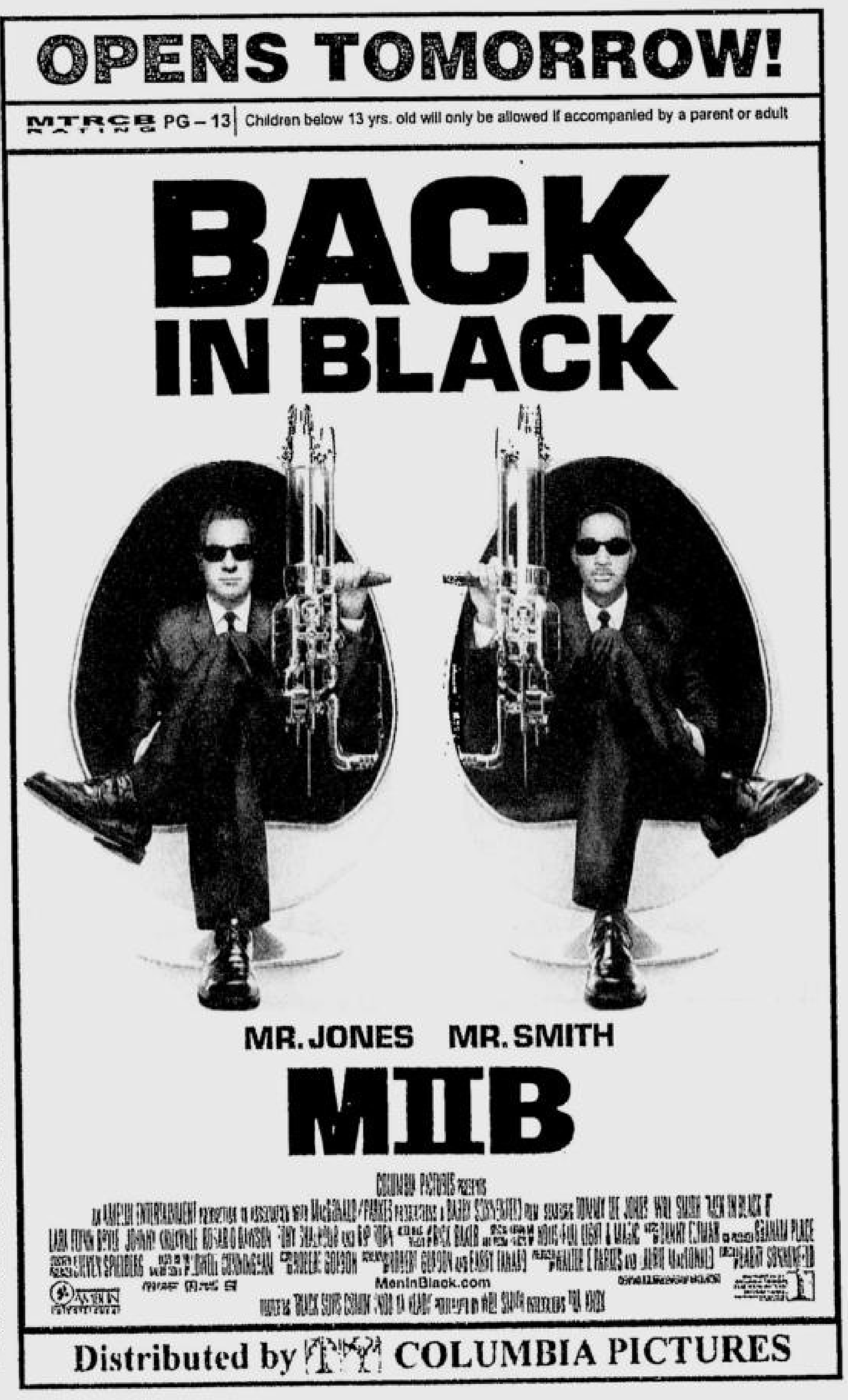
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Megastar nervous about Mega Event

TO CELEBRATE her silver anniversary in show business, Megastar Sharon Cuneta returns to where it all began: her music.

"I can give up acting, but not singing," she explains. "Even if I'm old and gray and in my rocking chair, I would still be singing to my grandchildren."

She distinctly remembers her first guest appearance to promote the song "Mr. DJ" from her very first album, "DJ's Pet." "It was on Student Canteen, back in 1978," she says. She was 12 then.

When the opening notes of "Mr. DJ" was played, she heard a gasp and loud murmuring in the gallery. "It was then I realized that I had something special in my hands," she beams.

The girl has grown into a woman, capturing the hearts of millions of fans along the way, with the help of her hit albums, including "All I Ever Want," her first album to be released in the Asian region. These albums spawned hit singles like "High School Life," "Kahit Maputi na ang Buhok Ko," "Santo Niño," "Ewan," "Kahit Konting Pagtingin," "Ikaw," "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," "Tubig at Langis," "Both Sides Now" and her latest, "Where's the Good in Goodbye?"

At the same time, she carved an unparalleled career in entertainment, including all media: recording, movies, television and advertising.

Still, she confesses: "When they decided to call this the Mega Event, I became nervous. My stomach is turning just thinking and talking about it."

She is referring to her anniversary concert on Aug. 16 and 17 at the Araneta Coliseum. It will try to capture in one show her amazing technicolor 25-year music career, from her "Mr. DJ" days to the present.

Her most recent CD has reached No. 20 on the Top 30 charts of HMV, a hip music store in Hong Kong. "In Your Eyes" from the album "All I Ever Want," which is her duet with Canto-pop superstar Andy Lau, debuted at No. 8 on the charts of RTHK, Hong Kong's No. 1 radio station. Her concert in the 12,000-seater Hong Kong Coliseum last May 12 broke house records.

A joint production of Artist House and ABS-CBN, "The Mega Event" marks Sharon's first time to perform with a 62-piece orchestra, the San Miguel Philharmonic. Directing her are concert and TV director Johnny Manahan and musical director Ryan Cayabyab.

Also joining Sharon in the event are Martin Nievera, Louie Ocampo and surprise guests.

"The Mega Event" is presented by WG&A Superferry, Alaska Milk, Winner Corned Beef, YKL Fuji Film and McDonald's. Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets (911-5555). For more information, call Artist House at 817-4660, 816-2496 or 815-1953.

SHARON CUNETA will sing till she's old and gray.

DANILO BARRIOS. No more fear.

From broken home to dream come true

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

IF HE had not auditioned for the dance group "Streetboys," where would Danilo Barrios be now?

Perhaps still living in Tarlac province under his grandmother's care, or moving from one parent to another while trying to figure out what went wrong with the broken family. And perhaps still dreaming of entering show business and becoming a television star.

But because he did become a Streetboy, half of Danilo's dreams have come true. With his savings so far, he was able to build a house to go home to after a hard day's work. He is no longer afraid that someone might drive him away, and he tries hard to forget bitter memories from the past.

Danilo now enjoys a great advantage. His talent manager, the respected director Chito Roño, makes sure that Danilo gets choice roles and the right talent fee.

It also helps that Roño directs all the films Danilo appears in, for the actor gets to hone his talents under the supervision of one of the best in the business.

Danilo, as in one of his early dreams, is now busy with TV appearances, as well as more movies. He is in the cast of "Muling Buksan and Puso," an eight-part drama anthology of "Tanging Yaman, the Series," which premiered on June 15.

In the mini-series, Danilo plays Allan Espiritu, brother of Joel (Marvin Agustin). Both were abandoned when their father went to work overseas. Danilo's character will eventually be part of an illegal syndicate.

This is not the first time Danilo has appeared as a *contravida*. In the soap "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," he played a character which he described as "one who always fought back."

In "Muling Buksan," he gets the chance to work with senior stars and appreciates the pointers they give him.

"Acting becomes easy with Amy Austria and Michael de Mesa, who play my parents," he says. "They share the most valuable tips on acting."

"With Paula Peralejo and Marvin, the chemistry is just great. We feel we are brothers and sister in real life."

Marvin and Danilo get to extend their on-screen brotherly ties in the much delayed production of "Dekada '70," a Vilma Santos-starrer.

Piolo Pascual, Carlos Agassi and John Sherman also appear in the movie as the brothers of Marvin and Danilo.

Danilo has also started shooting "Spirit Warriors 2," a sequel to the top-grossing movie in the Metro Manila Film Festival two years ago. The original cast of Streetboys is retained, but there are no more cave adventures for these adventurers.

"Spirit Warriors 2" is being filmed in the scenic regions of Vigan in Ilocos Sur up north and Samar in the Visayas.

The Streetboys still get to dance, mostly in corporate functions. But they do not go through the tumbling acts as much as they used to. They are now trying to distance their act from that of other groups, which have come to do the things the Streetboys became known for.

From his manager, Danilo has also learned the value of money. It is Roño who holds the purse, so to speak. The young actor receives P5,000 in weekly allowance from his manager.

"When I told my manager that I wanted to buy a house in Tarlac for my mom, there were no questions asked," Danilo says. "(Roño) even told me that real estate is good investment. It is easy to get his approval (if you plan to use the money wisely)."

Danilo is so loaded with work that he has little time to look for a girlfriend. He says it would be unfair to the girl, especially if they can't be together because of his hectic schedule.

"*Hanggang pa*-text-text *na lang ako*," he says with a smile.

Singers and other stars in a musical waiting to be a hit

By Marinel R. Cruz

ICONS of the local rock scene are moonlighting in theater.

After Wolfgang's main man Basti Artadi wowed the audience as Christ in "Jesus Christ: Superstar" last year, another rock idol, The Dawn's Jett Pangan, is expected to dazzle them, this time in a Jonathan Larson musical titled "tick, tick . . . Boom!"

Jett is the lead vocalist of The Dawn, the rock icon of the '80s that gave us phenomenal hits like "Salamat," and "Enveloped Ideas." The album "Prodigal Sun" is the band's comeback vehicle after a four-year sabbatical.

Jett will play the role of Jon, Jonathan Larson's alter ego, a restaurant waiter and struggling playwright uncertain of his future after his first attempt at a musical flops.

"There's a time bomb ticking inside of him," Jett says of his character. "If he doesn't achieve anything before he turns 30, he'll just explode and disappear."

Jett confesses he has dealt with similar issues himself. "When I was nearing 30, I had affirmations, I had to have a car, a house and a family," he says. "But when I turned 30, I realized, 'what's the rush?' It's good to aim for something but to set a deadline for everything is wrong. What happens if we don't get what we want? We only feel sorry for ourselves."

Now 34, Jett says he is contented with his life. He has been married for almost eight years, has two talented kids aged seven and three, and a rock and roll band that has just made a successful comeback.

Compared to Jett, singer Bituin Escalante is a theater veteran. Small parts in productions of Tanghalang Pilipino, Musical Theater Philippines and Trumpets led to more noteworthy roles in New Voice Company and Atlantis productions. She was in Larson's "Seasons of Love" and "Rent," both for Atlantis.

She loves theater so much that she says, given the chance, she wants to go into it full time.

Jett, Bituin and actor-director Michael de Mesa complete the cast of "tick, tick . . . Boom!"

Bituin says the script requires her to play about 15 different personalities. Aside from taking on the role of a coworker, the boss, the mother, an agent and other bits and parts, she is first of all Jon's girlfriend Susan.

Michael plays Jon's best friend Mike as well as incidental characters like the waiter, restaurant customers, the father and a researcher.

Michael, one of the most respected movie and TV actors in show business, made his first theater appearance in "Bangag," the 1981 adaptation of "Does the Tiger Wear a Necktie?" Early this year, he was in the Pulitzer-prize winning Larson play "Proof" as Leah Salonga's mathematician father.

Michael is presently under treatment for carrying hepatitis virus. He says he found himself searching for "worthwhile things" and wanting to grow more as an actor.

Says Atlantis creative director Bobby Garcia: "I think when you love what you do, the energy finds itself. Of course you get exhausted at the end of the day but you're so fulfilled with what you do that you want to do it again and again."

Atlantis Productions, which opened the year with the Tony Award-winning Broadway play "Proof" in Manila with Lea Salonga, produces "tick, tick . . . Boom!" The musical will be staged at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater in Makati City from July 26 to Aug. 11.

For tickets, call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078 or Ticket World at 891-5610.

JETT PANGAN, Bituin Escalante and Michael de Mesa

Not for scientists and environmentalists only

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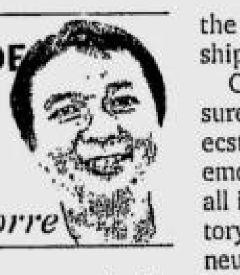

Nestor U. Torre

NO, the National Geographic Channel isn't for scientists and environmentalists only. In fact, it sometimes comes up with shows on topics that appeal to the not very scholarly interests of the mainstream TV audience. Despite this popular approach, however, the learning opportunities they provide remain substantial.

Take the series of shows on love and sex that "Nat Geo Max" is running on NGC starting July 23 (all shows at 9 p.m.):

The series leads off on July 23 with "The Science of Seduction." Our hearts flutter when we spot a potential sexual partner—but spotting one is easy, the hard part is deciding on the next move. How do you take the plunge? Science can now reveal the powerful forces behind the delicate process of seduction, and how they can work for you.

On July 24, "Science of Love" shows what happens to our brains when we fall in love. While lovers ponder the mystery, neuro-chemists and anthropologists work diligently in their labs and in the field to find the hard science behind lovers' soft caresses, and reveal the intricate processes of courtship and falling in love.

On July 25, the focus is on pleasure, pain, contentment, jealously, ecstasy, madness—the gamut of emotions and sensations of love in all its intense and even contradictory permutations. In this episode, neuro-scientists and psychologists agree that the power of love can't be underestimated.

Delve deep into the human psyche and find out why being in love can bring forth unexpected emotions, and sometimes blur the lines between positive and negative behavior.

And, on July 26, some perplexing questions are answered: Are men destined to be promiscuous? Are women naturally inclined to get married? How do same-sex couples fare in the areas of fidelity and longevity?

See how the human brain codes emotional experiences and how the limbic system may help us understand and achieve lasting love.

When we fall in love, we use our hearts and our erogenous impulses, sometimes with disastrous results. These NGC programs balance the equation by taking a more intellectual view of the phenomena of love and sex. We trust that there's no contradiction there!

Quiz-show errors

QUIZMASTERS: *Ano sa* English *ang tahol ng aso?*

Contestant: *Aw!*

(No, bark.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Anong prutas ang nasa* blueberry jam?

Contestant: Guava!

(No, blueberry!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa anong sport ginagamit ang* irons, woods and putter?

Contestant: Gymnastics!

(No, golf!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang unang letra sa salitang* xylophone?

Contestant: C!

(No, X.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilang taon sa isang* decade?

Contestant: 100!

(No, that's a century. A decade has only 10 years.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilang* sports *sa* triathlon?

Contestant: *Lima!*

(No, *tatlo lang.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Anong* belt *ang* required *na gamitin ng nakasakay sa kotse para sa kanyang proteksyon?*

Contestant: Protection belt!

(No, seatbelt!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano sa Ingles ang damit?*

Contestant: *Kasuotan.*

(No, clothes)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang ibig sabihin ng* acronym *na* SWAK?

Contestant: Uh, pass.

(The answer is Sealed With A Kiss.)

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11:10, 12:55, 2:40,
4:25, 6:10, 7:55, 9:40
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ECOZONE, BOI INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Tax perks cost gov't P187B, says DOF

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said the tax perks, such as import duty exemption and income tax holidays, given by the government to priority investment projects last year deprived the national coffers of P187.2 billion in potential revenues.

Last year's estimated foregone revenues, according to the department, were 20.3 percent or P31.56 billion higher than the P155.64 billion recorded in the previous year.

A ranking finance official said the P187.2 billion in foregone revenues were more than enough to wipe out last year's budget deficit of P147 billion.

These figures, he added, should strengthen the DOF's position to rationalize and trim down the tax incentives being given by the Board of Investments, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and other agencies administering industrial zones.

Portion of the foregone revenues stemmed from the exemption of 20 agencies from paying taxes.

Of those identified as revenue drains, the import duties waived by Peza for its locators accounted for the bulk of P152.02 billion in 2001, up 32.7 percent or P37.46 billion from the previous year's level. The amount was 81 percent of the total estimated foregone revenues of the government during the year.

Locators of Peza reportedly imported a total of P723.91 billion worth of goods, up from P545.52 billion in 2000, which were fully exempted from taxes and duties.

The estimated revenue loss does not include losses arising from abuses by certain economic zone locators of the 5-percent gross income tax system.

The second largest item in the DOF's list was the income tax holidays extended by the BOI which deprived the national coffers of P14 billion in potential earnings last year. This was 12 percent more than the P12.5 billion in 2000.

The DOF estimates were based on the calculations of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. The BOI, for its part, claimed that the tax holidays it was giving to priority projects accounted for only about P4 billion in foregone revenues yearly.

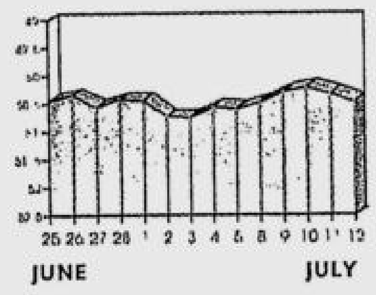
The PIDS said the "hidden costs" of the BOI incentives ranged from P10.57 billion to P15.645 billion in year 2000. This accounted for one-fourth of the government's revenues from corporate income tax of P44.8 billion in that same year.

TAX/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY SAMMY REINOSO

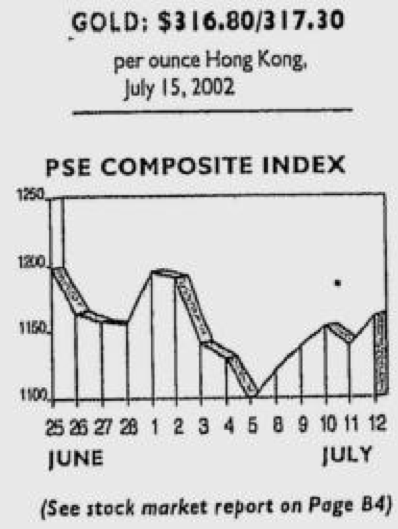
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.495 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 12, 2002

¥ 116.18= $1
As of 5 p.m., July 15, 2002

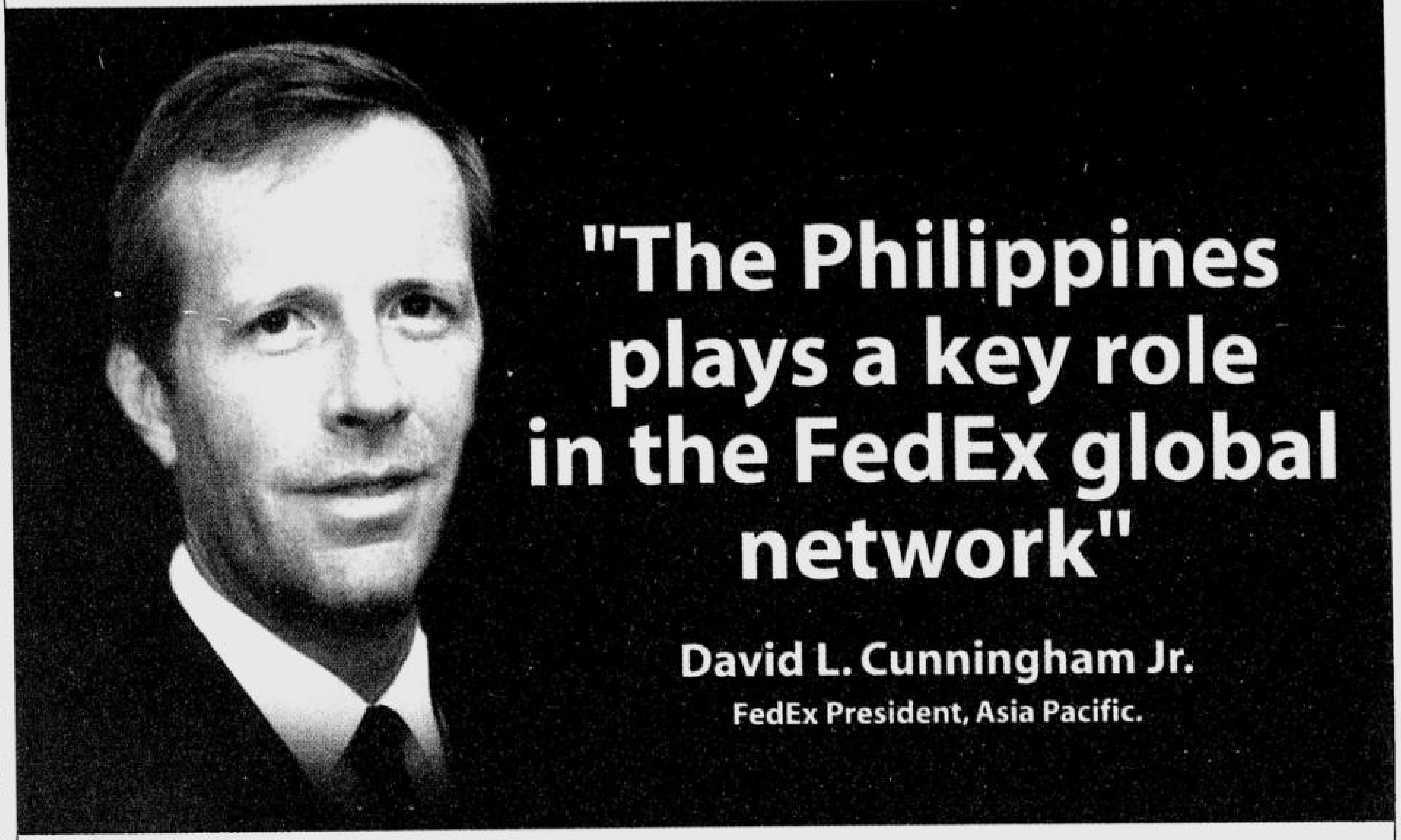
GOLD: $316.80/317.30
per ounce Hong Kong, July 15, 2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

THE STOCK MARKET was closed yesterday due to a public holiday.



Faith in the Philippines

"The Philippines plays a key role in the FedEx global network"

David L. Cunningham Jr.
FedEx President, Asia Pacific.

FedEx, the world's largest express transportation company, has expanded the main sort facility of its 'AsiaOne' Hub in Subic Bay, Philippines

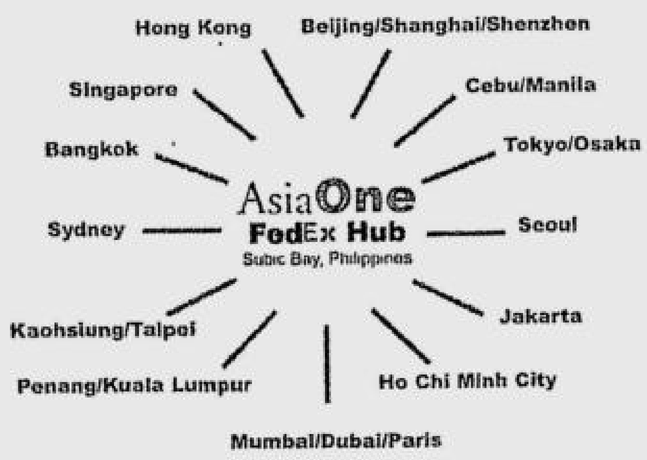
Over the past few years, FedEx has substantially expanded its routes and infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region to meet the growth of business. The most visible is the recent expansion of its main sort facility and flight operation Hub in Subic Bay by an extra 140,000 sq. ft. This effectively doubles the size of the existing facility. Included in the expansion is the strategic investment for advanced computer automation and even faster document processing.

FedEx Asia Pacific President David Cunningham Jr. said, "Subic Bay is the largest air express hub operating in Asia and it plays a pivotal role in the hub-and-spokes system that FedEx pioneered." Called FedEx AsiaOne, the flight network centered in the Subic Hub gives customers an expansive network unmatched by any other carrier. Over 260 flights a week are flown within Asia by FedEx's own fleet of wide-bodied MD-11 and A310 aircraft, supported by 7,300 employees.

FedEx's unmatched air route authorities and infrastructure make it the world's largest express transportation company, reliably transporting more than 3.3 million items to 211 countries each working day. FedEx employs over 143,500 people and has more than 45,000 drop-off locations, 640 aircraft and 44,500 vehicles servicing its integrated global network.

"FedEx revolutionized express delivery in Asia when we opened our Asia Pacific Hub in the Philippines in 1995. Our commitment to Asia is even stronger than ever and this major investment and expansion of the AsiaOne Subic Hub demonstrates our continued faith in the economy of the Philippines and the rest of the Asia Pacific region," said Mr. Cunningham.

FedEx Express



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Subic-Clark integration pushed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT must push through with the development and integration of two former American military bases in the country—Subic and Clark—to ensure that the world's leading air couriers would keep their hubs in the Philippines and not transfer to China.

Bases Conversion Development Authority president Rufo Colayco warned that "the Philippines might lose what it already has to China" if the government would not push through with the development plans for Subic and Clark.

In an interview, Colayco said that with all investors eyeing China for expansion, Federal Express and UPS might also decide to focus their operations on the Mainland while scaling down their businesses here. Colayco said that while the Philippines had the advantage of having the most strategic location in Asia, this was not enough to keep the air couriers from leaving the country.

Colayco said this possibility could be avoided if the government would push through with the development projects in Subic and Clark to make them more attractive. as the region's logistics hub.

He noted that the success of a logistics hub does not depend on the economic performance of its locale in order to thrive. "We can have a bad economy and the air couriers would still choose the Philippines as a transit point as long as our facilities are modern, our services efficient, and our workforce productive," Colayco said.

He said the integration of the military bases under the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (SCAD) project was a

SUBIC/ B4

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL right, fans of the PPA, aka "take-or-pay," I know you work hard. You must earn money to survive. You have to pay for one of the most costly electricity in the world.

It's now time for great moments in the renegotiation of the IPP contracts. Most of them, as you know, were declared as "onerous" or "flawed" or both.

This cute administration wants to finish the IPP renegotiations in three months. No, Bruno, it has nothing to do with the flood in Pampanga, Gloriaetta's home province.

The whole province is flooded, said Gov. Lito Lapid, except two towns. Some 80,000 families there need help, such as old clothes, food and medicine.

But even with the rains, the cute administration of Gloriaetta was busy trying to change the IPP contracts. Then it was rudely interrupted by Copa.

Copa, by the way, according to other groups in "civil society," such as Kompil, is an organization with the strength of all of its eight members.

* * *

IT'S just that, based on highly reliable surveys, the natives are a bit restless over the power rates. They are blaming this PPA issue, wrongly, all on Gloriaetta.

That probably explains the time pressure. And, according to Justice Undersecretary Emmanuel Teehankee, the government's priority at this point is to lower the power rates.

Teehankee, as you know, topped the bar years ago. He must know what he is doing. He knows that if you violate the law, for instance, you must go to jail.

Who should go to jail for those lopsided agreements, costing the country billions upon billions of pesos in payments for unused power, is another matter altogether.

To pursue the cases, the government also needs proof of wrongdoing, Teehankee said, as he was interviewed by a handsome guy on DZAR Angel Radyo's Barangay 1026, which is the best radio program in town, based on my own reliable survey of my family.

* * *

ANYWAY, if this cute administration succeeds in lowering the electricity rates, my mother will probably be the happiest person in the world.

But if it can punish the culprits behind those high rates, some 80 million people will be happy. Perhaps the government must also pacify the natives.

For instance, one of the supposedly defective contracts, at least according to Gloriaetta's review panel for the IPPs, belongs to the Argentine company called Impsa.

That's the company which, in 1997, was declared "winner" in the alleged bidding for the Napocor contract to rehabilitate the CBK power plant complex.

The Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan complex acts as regulator of power supply in Luzon, covering for shortfall, if there's one, or shutting itself down, if there's none.

Know what—Gloriaetta's high-caliber review panel declared the Impsa contract as faulty. Know what more—the panel forgot to say Impsa seems to have hit a fortune.

* * *

INSTEAD of operating an electricity complex, Impsa is now in the fortune-hunting business. Impsa already got from the government some P1.3 billion—no sweat.

Usually, if you have a contract with the government, you have to do the work, and then you can expect to get paid for it by the government, maybe, if you're lucky.

But Impsa is not your usual contractor. Apparently, Impsa knows its way around here so well, the government pays it for little or no work, meaning, it gets an advance.

Of course Impsa calls the advance by another name. That P1.3 billion was only a "capital recovery fee." A whaaat? Well, who really knows what the hell that is?

Perhaps a certain Asisclo Gonzaga, the president of Transco, can explain to Gloriaetta what "capital recovery fee" is all about. And I did not make up his first name.

* * *

UNDER the rules, after doing the work—again, that's "after" and not "before"—government contractors like Impsa must secure documents saying their work is done.

In that Impsa "capital recovery fee," Asisclo issued the document, allowing Impsa to take P1.3 billion of our taxes as mysterious fee. What's that—take or fee?

Quite revealing are the figures from Napocor itself, which contracted Impsa for the rehabilitation of the CBK complex. That's a rehab. It's not "capital recovery."

I myself don't know what the technical terms mean, but you just focus on the numbers for the "before-and-after" Napocor turnover of the CBK to Impsa.

- "Dependable capacity"—281 megawatts before and 188 megawatts after.
- "Plant capacity factor"—21.09 percent before and 16.97 percent after.
- "Availability"—84.06 percent before

TAKE/ B4

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Day 4	AM -	Valuation and Capital Budgeting Decisions Identifying and forecasting relevant cash flows and investment rules such as Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate Return (IRR)
	PM -	Business Unit and Company Valuations
Day 5	AM -	Risk Management and Portfolio Management Managing the market risk and how to use derivatives for hedging strategies by companies.
	PM -	Individual Project Plan

Professor Grace S. Ugut is a core faculty of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning (EXCELL) Center and concurrently the Program Director of the Executive MBA Program in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her research focus is on her fields of expertise: capital market development and derivative instruments. She was in the area of banking and finance, namely: treasury, risk management, corporate finance, and fixed income securities.

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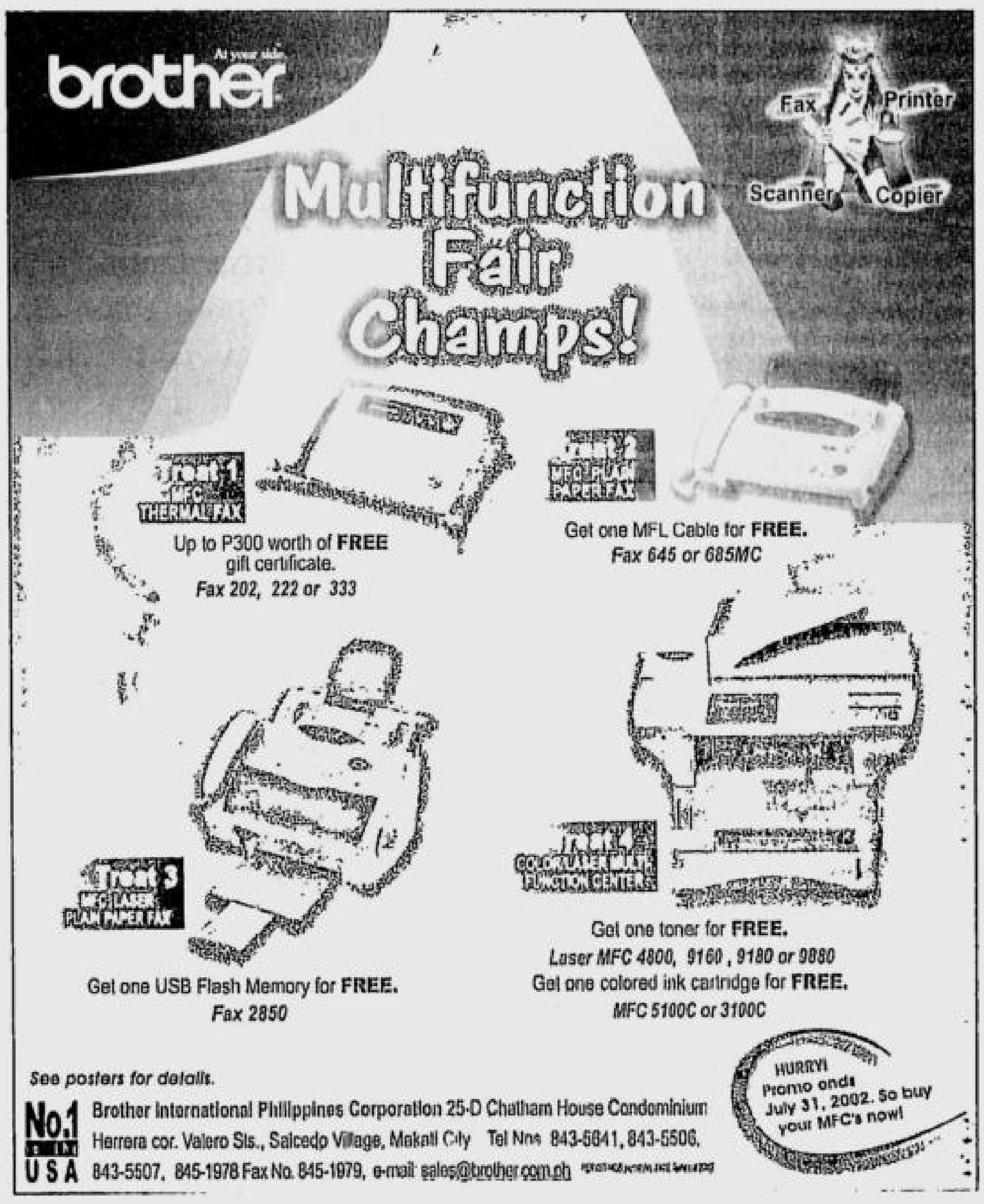

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Another Urban Bank case dropped

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has dismissed another case against the Monetary Board and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in relation to the closure of Urban Bank Inc. in April 2000.

Urban Bank's declaration of a bank holiday supported the "factual decreasing" in the bank's liquidity to meet its obligations on time, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said in his ruling.

This justified the Monetary Board's decision to close the bank and its subsidiary, Urban Development Corp., he said.

Equally justified, according to the Ombudsman, was the decision to put Urban Bank and Urban Development under receivership and revoke the trust license of Urbancorp Investments Inc.

Desierto dismissed a case filed by Benjamin Tabios, a former executive assistant to housing czar Michael Defensor, against the Monetary Board and the central bank.

Tabios had accused monetary authorities of falsifying public documents and perjury.

The central bank said in a statement that the Ombudsman's latest decision should strengthen its arguments in its remaining cases involving Urban Bank's closure.

Two weeks ago, the Ombudsman junked the criminal and administrative cases filed by Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan against BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura and BSP counsel Juan de Zuniga.

Four other central bank officials—Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes and supervision and examination team members Dolores Yuvienco, Candon Guerrero and Tomas Aure—still have pending cases of "simple neglect of duty" before the Ombudsman.

Buenaventura said the central bank's lawyers had asked the Ombudsman to reconsider the cases against the four officials.

Without a favorable decision, the central bank will be forced to carry out the Ombudsman's order to suspend the four officials for a month.

Borlongan and other top Urban Bank officials, meanwhile, are facing three estafa cases filed by the central bank.

Government regulators have accused Borlongan and Urban Bank chair Arsenio Bartolome of illegally using over P4 billion worth of deposits to bail out Urbancorp.

Urban Bank shut down on April 26, 2000, following weeks of heavy withdrawals caused by reports that Urbancorp was about to go down.

The BSP and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. accused Borlongan and Bartolome of transferring some P4.5 billion worth of "garbage receivables" from Urbancorp to Urban Bank, causing the bank to suffer cash problems. These, according to the BSP and PDIC, were illegal acts that constituted massive fraud and even economic sabotage.

The owners of Urban Bank defended this transfer of loans as "financial intermediation."

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6	CANYON WOODS	200,000	------	----
7	CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	------	July 91
8	CC AT TAGAYTAY	------	CALL NOW	<Pre-sell
9	CELEBRITY CLUB	CALL NOW	165,000	Nov 96
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11	EAGLERIDGE "B"	500,000	------	----
12	FOREST HILLS "B"	300,000	------	July 00
13	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000	2,750,000	March 95
14	MLA SOUTHWOODS "A"	670,000	------	<Pre-sell
15	MLA SOUTHWOODS "B"	------	750,000	----
16	ORCHARD GCC "C"	------	CALL NOW	<Pre-sell
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18	RIVIERA GCC "A"	------	CALL NOW	<Pre-sell
19	STA. ELENA "A"	1,850,000	----	----
20	SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	350,000	----	----
21	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	900,000	------	July 95
22	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	------	750,000	----
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24	VALLEY GOLF	------	250,000	----
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Budget chief says deficit won't affect ODA projects

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin has assured the country's donors that the government's belt-tightening measures in view of its widening budget deficit will not choke funding for official development assistance-funded projects.

The assurance came after World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley aired concerns that "a very deep cut in expenditures might affect the country's ODA utilization."

The World Bank is among the country's biggest ODA donors.

It earlier said it was willing to provide up to $1.7 billion in fresh loans to the Philippines for the next three years as part of a country assistance strategy to boost economic growth and sustain poverty reduction.

The bank stressed, however, that its overall budget would depend on the pace of policy and institutional reforms, revenue mobilization and budget management, and the national government's portfolio performance.

"Our budget cuts will not slow down the utilization of ODA," Boncodin said. "I don't think foreign-assisted projects will be affected by (these cuts)."

The government has been tightening its belts after its deficit hit P107.54 billion in the first five months of the year, more than a third of its year-round target of P130 billion.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas also assured the country's donors that the Macapagal administration would "protect foreign-assisted projects."

The World Bank's new country assistance strategy from July 2 this year to June 30, 2005 seeks to provide more basic services, including access to potable water, electricity for far-flung areas, and farm-to-market roads. It is also aimed at providing poor communities productive assets and credit to improve their livelihood. *Doris C. Dumlao*

SEC reviews hike in PSE brokers' commissions

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is studying the Philippine Stock Exchange's decision to increase brokers' minimum commission, as this may discourage foreign investors.

A ranking SEC official told reporters that the commission agreed to raise brokers' commission, but that SEC Chair Lilia Bautista recalled the approval later that same day after receiving word that this might discourage foreign investors.

Foreign investors are usually given large discounts on commissions because they buy in bulk and account for 70 percent of trading volume.

Foreign investors complained that the move to increase brokers' commissions would jack up their costs and discourage them from further investing in stocks, according to SEC insiders.

The PSE approved recently an increase in its brokers' minimum commission to 0.25 percent for all PSE trade transactions.

A report by the stock exchange's strategic development committee said the introduction of a similar rate in Thailand in mid-January this year had brought about positive results.

The new scheme immediately reversed the losses of most brokers into profitability during the first quarter of the year, it said. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 18, 2002

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Items	P	1,078,637,889
Due from Bangko Sentral		759,648,262
Due from Other Banks		1,485,233,384
Interbank Loans Receivable		11,099,697,727
Trading Account Securities (Net)		927,013,721
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		22,441,356,908
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		13,779,416,940
Equity Investments (Net)		326,680,886
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,455,892,857
Other Assets (Net)		8,954,330,278
Property Owned/Acquired		5,685,849,853
Others		3,268,480,425
TOTAL ASSETS	P	63,307,908,852

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	10,644,376,470
Savings Deposits		16,053,782,736
Time Deposits		14,711,496,002
Special/Other Deposits		10,353,695
Due to Bangko Sentral		8,276,534
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		874,353,332
Bills Payable:		2,814,381,722
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		1,502,734,540
Others		1,292,601,514
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		801,817,236
Other Liabilities		4,171,545,670
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	50,090,383,397

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,076,243,475
Surplus Reserves		54,224,057
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,217,525,455
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	63,307,908,852

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	163,504,027
Bills for Collection		57,327,749
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		11,131,959,500
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		1,769,849,657
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,216,499,374
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,566,292,942
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		221,888,133
Loans & Discounts		15,289,896
Other Assets		3,413,028,403
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,528,099,315
Common Trust Funds		839,304,156
Investment/Fund Management		849,095,903
Other Contingent Accounts		46,814,228
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	18,385,954,535

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	1,757,923,262
b) Banks		215,370,768
c) Trust Department		2,343,205,405
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance 6% for Small Enterprise		183%
b) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance 2% for Medium Enterprises		404%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		3,484,928,587
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		13.09%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		7,571,934,943
6. General provision for loan losses		193,612,127
7. Specific provision for loan losses		1,554,826,781
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		13.32%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances		667,276,501
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		2.51%
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances		459,302
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		-

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
) S.S.

We, YSMAEL V. BAYSA and VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 5th day of July 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 11937965 issued at Makati City on February 28, 2002 and Community Tax No. 16925614 issued at Quezon City on February 11, 2002, respectively.

MIGUEL G. PADERNAL
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2003
PTR NO 6749998
JAN 17, 2002
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 37
Page No. 9
Book No. XXXVII
Series of 2002.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of June 18, 2002

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Items	P	1,081,581,428
Due from Bangko Sentral		759,648,262
Due from Other Banks		1,485,233,384
Interbank Loans Receivable		11,099,697,727
Trading Account Securities (Net)		949,937,199
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		22,442,578,553
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		13,452,902,782
Equity Investments (Net)		63,536,066
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,463,360,653
Other Assets (Net)		9,489,141,685
Property Owned/Acquired		5,685,849,853
Others		3,803,291,832
TOTAL ASSETS	P	63,287,617,739

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	10,590,547,007
Savings Deposits		16,053,115,173
Time Deposits		14,711,496,002
Special/Other Deposits		10,353,695
Due to Bangko Sentral		8,276,534
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		874,353,332
Bills Payable:		2,814,881,722
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		1,502,734,540
Others		1,293,101,514
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		801,936,368
Other Liabilities		4,203,466,088
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	50,068,425,921
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates		1,666,363

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,076,243,475
Surplus Reserves		54,224,057
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,217,525,455
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	63,287,617,739

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	163,504,027
Bills for Collection		57,327,749
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		11,131,959,500
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		1,769,849,657
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,216,499,374
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,566,292,942
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		221,888,133
Loans & Discounts		15,289,896
Other Assets		3,413,028,403
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,528,099,315
Common Trust Funds		839,304,156
Investment/Fund Management		849,095,903
Other Contingent Accounts		46,814,228
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	18,385,954,535

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	1,757,923,262
b) Banks		215,370,768
c) Trust Department		2,343,205,405

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
   - a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation
   - b) UBP Capital Corporation
   - c) UBP Securities, Inc.
   - d) Interventure Capital Corporation

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
) S.S.

We, YSMAEL V. BAYSA and VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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Series of 2002.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUSTO A. ORTIZ
Chairman and CEO

JON RAMON M. ABOITIZ
Vice Chairman

VICENTE R. AYLLON
Vice Chairman

BERNARDINO R. ABES
ERRAMON I. ABOITIZ
JOHNNY M. ARANETA
JOSE S. BERNABE
JUAN ANTONIO E. BERNAD
ARMAND F. BRAUN, JR.
RAOUL M. INOCENTES
ANTONIO R. MORAZA
STEPHEN G. PARADIES
ARTURO G. SAN GABRIEL
LUCITO L. SIOSON
VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS

ATTY. FE B. MACALINO
Corporate Secretary

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

JUSTO A. ORTIZ
Chairman & CEO

VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President & COO

GUIA C. LIM
EDWIN R. BAUTISTA
TEODORO M. PANGANIBAN
HERMINIO M. PUGEDA
Executive Vice Presidents

YSMAEL V. BAYSA
RAMON R. CASTRO
MIGUEL ANGEL G. GONZALEZ
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PSE sets overhaul

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is set to overhaul its penalty system, as it aims to shift its focus toward non-monetary sanctions.

In a news briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung and PSE listing committee chair Peter Favila said the proposed changes stemmed from petitions among issuers to reconsider various penalties.

"The shift from monetary to non-monetary penalties will change the perception that the PSE is too focused on money-making," Leung said. "We are trying to correct this, and we think that there are other measures, like public reprimand, which can effectively deter violations."

"We're in the process of reviewing our table of penalties. We need to revisit our penalties as they apply to particular violations," Favila said. "For instance, companies that had just undergone a process of merger could really face some delays in the submission of certain reportorial requirements."

Leung said the stock exchange would also try to distinguish between chronic violators and those with acceptable excuses.

It is common among listed firms to miss their deadlines when submitting documents that regulators require for public disclosure.

The stock exchange requires all listed companies to submit financial reports, including at least 200 copies of their annual reports. It slaps a basic fine of P50,000 and a daily fine of P5,000. Some listed firms consider these penalties too stiff.

Five companies—Atlas Consolidated Mining & Development Corp., Fil-Estate Corp., Music Corp., Philippine National Construction Corp. and Wise Holdings Inc.—are facing suspension of trading today because of their failure to submit their financial reports on time.

Atlas, a mining firm controlled by retailer Alfredo Ramos, operates a copper mine in Cebu and a gold mine in Masbate.

Fil-Estate is currently in the thick of negotiations with state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority over a lease contract for the 247-hectare Camp John Hay tourism estate in Baguio City.

Music's core subsidiary, meanwhile, is facing a petition for involuntary bankruptcy filed by a shareholder in the United States.

Subic-Clark . . .

From page B2

key factor in boosting the attraction of the former military bases to investors.

The growth of Subic and Clark have been capped in the past because they competed rather than complemented each other for investor attention and, in the process, their weaknesses rather than their strengths were magnified.

Colayco said the Scad's centerpiece project—the $400-million, 47.2-km Subic-Clark—should finally tear down the dividing wall between the two and fire up more interest among investors in Clark's airport and Subic's harbor.

Colayco said the Scad project envisions the development of an international container port in Subic and an international airport in Clark in anticipation of the increased traffic between the two. "We hope to have all the key Scad projects finished by 2005 and 2006," Colayco said.

Colayco said the development of Subic and Clark was expected to be the catalyst for growth of Central Luzon, which has lagged behind the rapid pace of the expansion of the Southern Luzon provinces.

"We foresee the Bataan-Zambales provinces replicating the development of areas near the port of Manila; the transfer of manufacturing industries to Pampanga, Tarlac and Bulacan, and the emergence of Nueva Ecija as a premier agriculture center of the country," Colayco said.

But Colayco envisions the Subic-Clark development to have a broader impact beyond their adjacent provinces. He said the development of the country as a logistics hub would benefit all businessmen and consumers in terms of lower costs of goods arising from substantial savings in transportation costs.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, July 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	11,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	16.75	17	240,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	47.5	46	47	176,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	215,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33.5	515,900
Philippine National Bank	31	31.5	31	31.5	38,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	16,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1320	1310	1320	410
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	980	980	980	80
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.5	24	23.5	24	5,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	515	540	515	540	57,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	5,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Piltel	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.33	60,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	317.5	320	310	320	128,250
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	25,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	20.25	19.75	20.25	61,500
Manila Electric Co. B	29	29	28.5	29	506,400
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	2,609,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.78	32,506,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.46	2.42	2.46	567,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	7,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	40,800
RFM Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	130,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	27,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	47	47.5	62,100
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	54.5	54	54	47,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	780,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	4,682,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.34	2.28	2.34	5,812,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	4,250,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	206,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	15.75	15.75	13.75	14.75	2,935,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.5	1.5	471,000
Medco Holdings	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	610,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	12,400,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	800,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	250,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.07	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.22	0.22	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	470,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	4.5	4.5	15,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24.25	24	24.25	860,400
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	610	620	580	580	590
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	6.1	5.7	5.9	14,446,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	190,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	11,670,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.38	2.3	2.34	2,424,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.76	110,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	170,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	6	5.8	5.9	3,703,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	1,100,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	85,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000

CURRENCIES

July 12, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.011020	1.000000	50.2650
Japan	Yen	0.008651	0.008557	0.4301
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572035	1.554900	78.1570
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129623	0.128210	6.4445
Switzerland	Franc	0.681877	0.674445	33.9010
Canada	Dollar	0.663835	0.656599	33.0039
Singapore	Dollar	0.578718	0.572410	28.7722
Australia	Dollar	0.565131	0.558971	28.0967
Bahrain	Dinar	2.681894	2.652661	133.3360
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269606	0.266667	13.4040
Brunei	Dollar	0.575915	0.569638	28.6329
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.024569	0.024301	1.2215
UAE	Dirham	0.275280	0.272279	13.6861
Korea	Won	0.000437	0.000432	0.0217
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.989100	49.7171
Argentina	Real	0.285599	0.282486	14.1992
Brazil	Real	0.357630	0.353732	17.7803
Denmark	Kroner	0.134663	0.133195	6.6950
India	Rupee	0.020756	0.020530	1.0319
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266093	0.263193	13.2294
Mexico	New Peso	0.103940	0.102807	5.1676
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489124	0.483793	24.3179
Norway	Kroner	0.137180	0.135685	6.8202
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016867	0.016683	0.8386
South Africa	Rand	0.100312	0.099219	4.9872
Sweden	Kroner	0.107720	0.106546	5.3555
Syria	Pound	0.019669	0.019455	0.9779
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030563	0.030230	1.5195
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000784	0.000775	0.0390

Take or fee

From page B2

and 60.85 percent after.

- "Energy generated"—521 gigawatthours before and 442 gigawatthours after.
- "Pumping energy"—421 gigawatthours before and 52 gigawatthours after.

So there, you see, all the numbers went down, according to Napocor figures. They indicate that the CBK may be worse off under Impsa than it was under Napocor.

Yet the government pays Impsa some P1.3 billion for . . . well, "capital recovery." And they said it was a rehabilitation project. Rehab for what? Maybe for Impsa!

* * *

DON'T look now, but real estate is landing in the news again after more than five years, or since the financial crisis in Asia. Nobody talks about land anymore except when it's about landslide or landgrabbing.

Latest big news was that surprise ruling from the Supreme Court on the Amari deal. This is the joint venture between the government and private companies to reclaim land in Manila Bay.

The Supreme Court said it could not do the project, because it involves inalienable land, which is against the Constitution. So who said there is no land yet. The land already exists, precisely, because it has yet to be reclaimed.

Anyway, from what I gathered, the ruling was penned by one of the newest justices of the Supreme Court. It may be one of those so-called fast-track projects again, but I don't really know.

It's just that banks are worried. In the reclaimed area in Manila Bay are thousands of hectares of real estate, worth hundreds of billions of pesos, all used as collateral bank loans. What if, for some reasons, the Supreme Court says they are inalienable, too?

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As of July 16, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,620,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	280,000	300,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	130,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	190,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	Pls Call	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	330,000/550,000*	-
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters	600,000	-
Fontana D/C	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"/"C"	230,000	230,000*
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	Pls. Call*	11,000,000
Manila Polo	-	2,750,000
Makati Sports Club A/B	Pls Call	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/750,000*	700,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	140,000	265,000*
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Orchard Golf	230,000	-
Phil. Columbian	-	60,000
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	120,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	210,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	80,000/Pls. Call**	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"*/"C"*	105,000/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Sta Elena Golf "A"	Pls. Call	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	160,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	880,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	780,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	-	150,000
Wack Wack Golf	7,400,000	-

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GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JULY 15, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,550,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,650,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	175,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450,000	400,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	190,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	330,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	260,000	260,000
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB		2,800,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	620,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	300,000
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	210,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	210,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB		800,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND		750,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	150,000
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	260,000
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,800,000

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Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,500,000	1,600,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	75,000	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	Please Call
Canlubang	500,000	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	160,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	200,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	225,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	14,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	730,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	500,000	550,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,700,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	820,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	-
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	330,000
Valley Golf	280,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,875,000	7,300,000

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Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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June 27, 2002

Higher bank provisions for Benpres debt sought

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will ask banks to raise the provisions for their loan exposure to Benpres Holdings Inc. initially to 25 percent and to 50 percent after a year, or higher than their usual loan-loss provision of 5 percent to 10 percent.

A BSP official said the monetary authorities had already instructed the examiners of the central bank to make sure that banks were increasing their provisions to 25 percent for clean or unsecured loans of Benpres and to 10 percent for those with collateral.

The banks' exposure to the Lopez firm was estimated to have reached $596 million or P30.87 billion largely due to loans obtained by Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc., two of its most hard-up subsidiaries.

Banking sources said that about one-third or $200 million of Benpres' debts were falling due this year.

"If the condition of its loans will not improve after a year, the BSP will ask the banks to set a much higher provision of 50 percent especially for clean loans or those without collateral," said a senior BSP official.

Banks normally set aside a loan-loss provision of 5 to 15 percent depending on the status of the exposure. As the loan becomes more problematic, banks are required to set aside a higher loan-loss reserve.

Lopez-controlled Benpres was having problems in settling its maturing obligations. The company said it could not pay the interest of $19.61 million on its long-term commercial papers that fell due two weeks ago.

Tesco to put up operations in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TESCO Plc. is keen on establishing a beachhead in the Philippines as part of the British retailing giant's expansion in Asia.

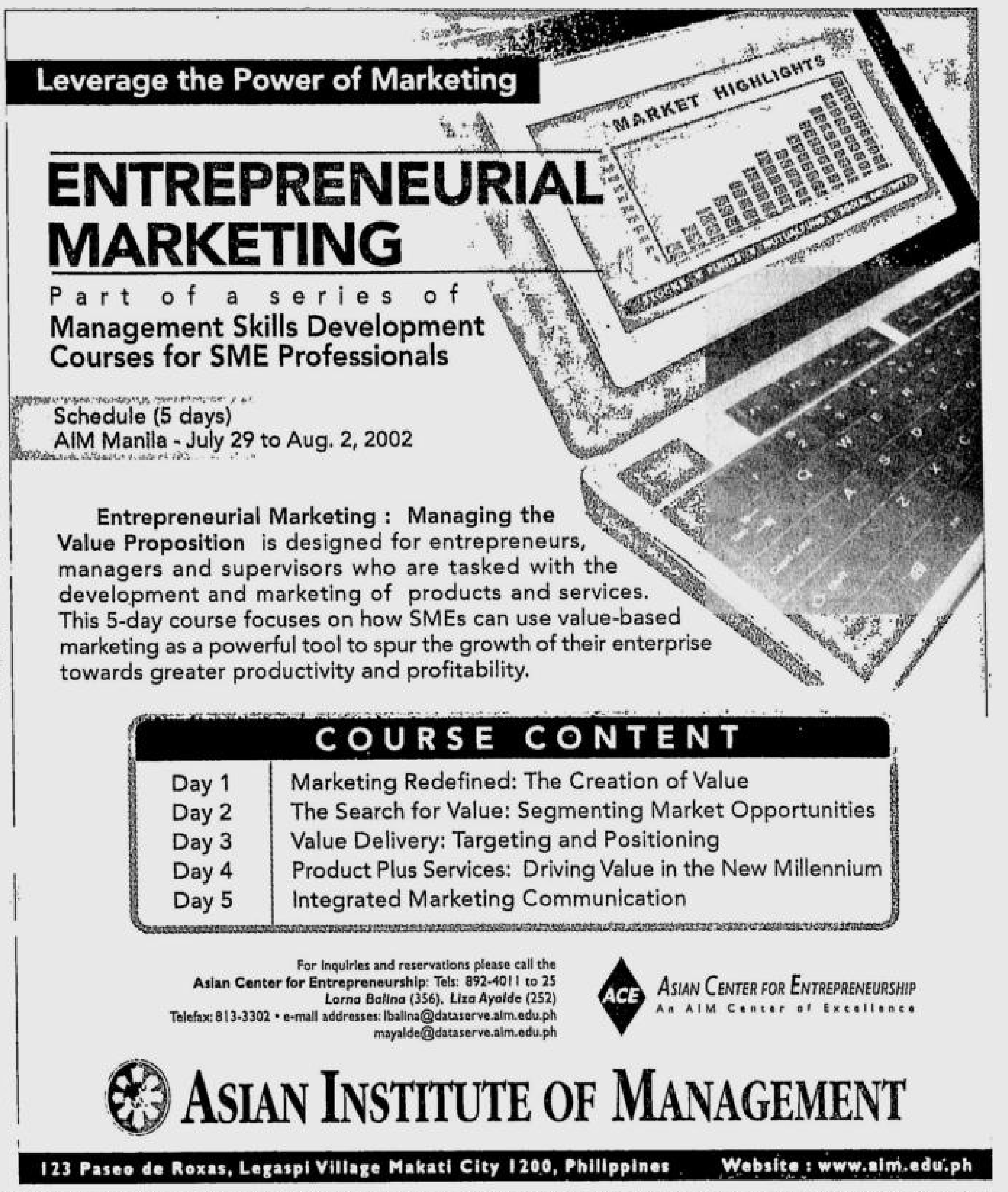
A source said Tesco's interest in the Philippines was raised by British Trade and Industry Minister Alan Johnson in his meeting with Malacañang officials early this month.

Tesco said last year that the Philippines was on its radar for its Asian expansion because of its huge domestic market. However, it was not among Tesco's priority countries that include South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia.

Tesco has apparently become more interested in the Philippines especially with the entry of Watson, operator of one of Asia's biggest retail chain for personal care and drugs, early this year.

Like Watson (which hooked up with the Philippines' largest retailer SM group), Tesco is also keen on tapping a local partner for its expansion here. Tesco is reportedly one of several foreign partners being eyed by upscale supermarket and department store operator Rustan group. The other prospective foreign retailers are Wal-Mart, Carrefour and Casino.

Tesco is keen on establishing a strong retail network in line with its goal of becoming a leading player in the region.



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Highlands Prime ventures into residential project

HIGHLANDS Prime Inc. is embarking on its first residential community development project inside the sprawling Tagaytay Highlands and Tagaytay Midlands complex in Tagaytay City.

Highlands Prime president Antonio A. Henson said the P800-million development would take about 15 months to complete and was expected to generate gross revenues amounting to P1.3 billion for Highlands Prime Inc. Construction of the project will start in September.

The 150-unit project, to be called the Woodridge, is envisioned to have seven clusters of medium density high-end condominium dwellings to be built right at one of the highest elevations in Tagaytay Highlands. The architectural firm of Recio + Casas has been commissioned to do the architectural design. Nine major construction companies have been shortlisted for the bidding, which is scheduled for July 19, 2002. These include DMCI, EEL, L&M Maxco, Pragmatic Construction Co., New Golden City, Monolith Construction, Datem Construction and others.

The 5-hectare residential community will be consistent with the general motif of Tagaytay Highlands and will have a rustic theme inspired by natural material such as stone and timber. This Woodridge condos will have two- and three-bedroom units with approximately floor areas of 111 square meters and 175 square meters, respectively.

The condominium units will have the vantage view of the overwhelming scenery of the Tagaytay Highlands development and its golf course, and the outlying areas of Canlubang and Laguna de Bay.

GOINGS-ON

PMSI-Heart Center deal

PHILIPPINE Medical Systems Inc., exclusive distributor of Toshiba medical systems in the Philippines, recently signed an agreement with the Philippine Heart Center for the supply and installation of a single plane cardiac angiography and interventional X-ray systems for PHC's catetherization laboratory.

PMSI won the bidding over other major medical equipment suppliers based on a special evaluation process of the product offered and the commercial bid. The offers were evaluated based on a grade point system that considered product quality and support systems. PHC acquired the equipment through a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines. The unit is the second Toshiba equipment to be installed at the PHC.

The agreement was signed by PMSI president Honesto C. Evangelista and PHC medical director Ludgerio Torres.

Starcom renews contract

STARCOM Worldwide Philippines Co. Inc. has renewed its contract with Nielsen Media Research, giving one of the country's largest media agencies access to TV audience information from over 1,500 households in Metro Manila and other commercial cities nationwide.

With this new contract, Starcom Philippines gets cutting-edge consumer information from households based in Metro Manila, Dagupan City, Metro Cebu and Davao City. It will also have access to multi-city TV, national radio and print advertising expenditure data: audience & advertising information, and exposure to national print readership.

Starcom Philippines is the Media Agency of Record (AOR) of the following companies:

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- JG Group of Companies (Planning and Buying AOR)
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- United International Pictures (Planning & Buying AOR)

Nielsen Media Research is the world leader in international media research and analysis. The company is active in 40 markets, offering television and radio audience measurement, advertising information services, print readership and customized media research services.

Tax perks . . .

From page B1

PIDS, a government think-tank, said that in 1999, foregone revenues from the BOI's tax holidays ranged between P12.277 billion and P18.536 billion.

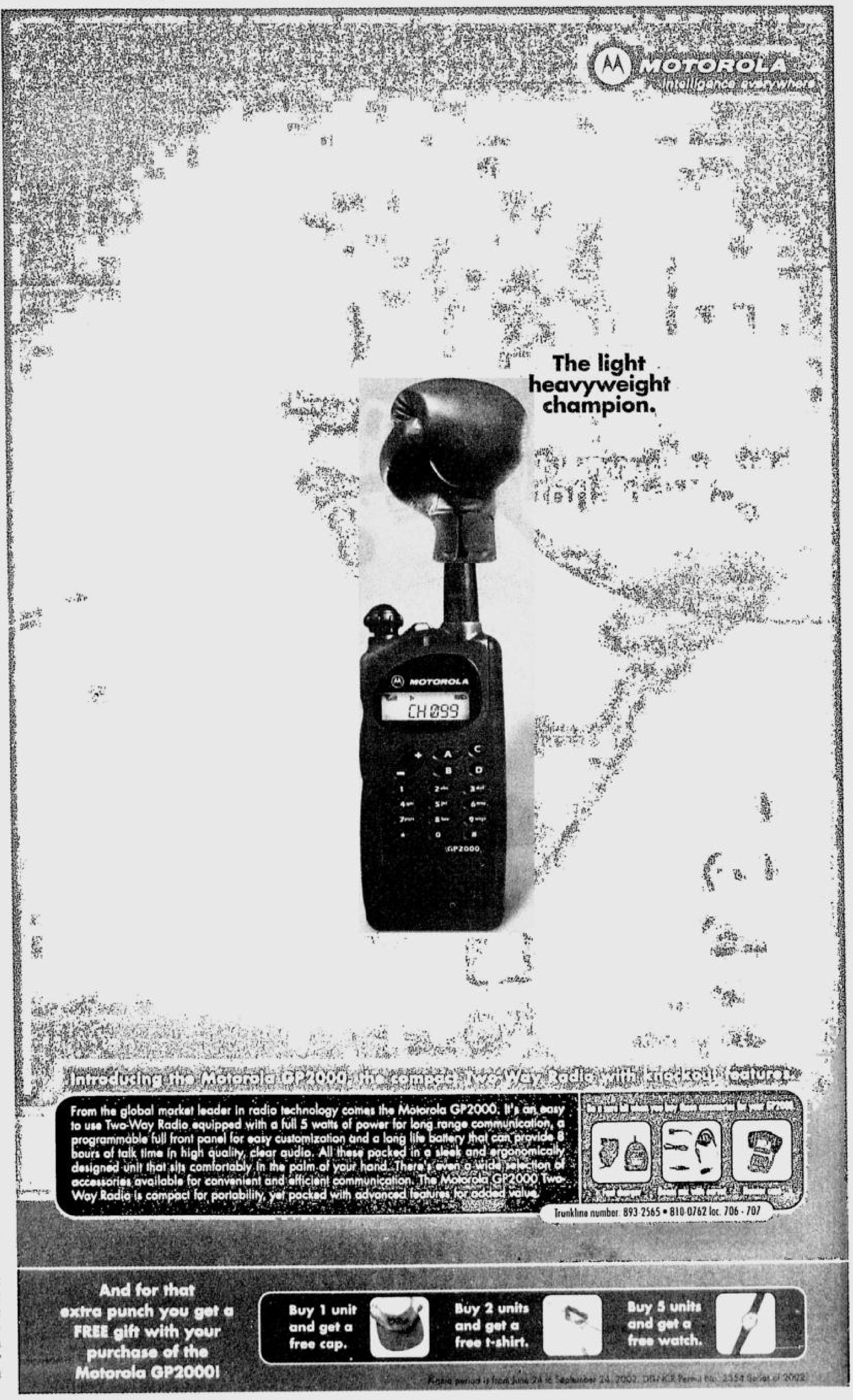
The government also lost P4.1 billion from the duty-free importation of rice, P2.78 billion from garment imports and P1.96 billion from National Power Corp.'s importation of crude oil.

Duty-free shops accounted for P1.18 billion in total revenue loss last year.

A finance official said the DOF and the BOI could not reconcile their views on how the tax incentives should be rationalized. Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II even lobbied for uniform application of Peza incentives on BOI-registered firms.

From January to May, investments registered with Peza stood at P14.8 billion while those listed under the BOI reached P11.81 billion.

Locators prefer the 5-percent gross income tax system being implemented by the Peza, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the industrial zones in Zamboanga and Cagayan Valley over the perks offered by the BOI.



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Japan's current account surplus hit $8.9B in May due to exports

JAPAN'S current account surplus more than doubled in May to mark the eighth straight year-on-year gain, backed by brisk exports to the United States and Asia, officials said.

The figures, a measure of trade in goods and services, financial income and monetary transfers, climbed to 1,044.3 billion yen ($8.9 billion) from 502.9 billion yen a year earlier.

The trade surplus, a core part of the current account, soared 182.8 percent to 728.8 billion yen for the month, the third consecutive year-on-year increase.

Exports gained 8.7 percent to 3,933.5 billion yen, led by growing shipments of cars, computers and steel products, mainly to the United States and Asia, offsetting a slowdown in exports to Europe, the ministry said.

The yen's decline against the dollar also contributed to the export rise. The Japanese currency averaged at 126.48 against the dollar, compared with 121.93 yen in May 2001, the ministry said.

A weaker yen makes Japanese products more cost-competitive abroad and boosts the value of overseas earnings when repatriated.

Imports for the month lost 4.6 percent to 3,204.7 billion yen, hit by weak consumer spending amid the nation's economic slump.

Analysts said Japan's current account surplus was likely to continue to expand for the time being.

"The May figure confirmed a firm trend in the nation's surplus expansion," said Kiochi Ono, an analyst at Daiwa Research Institute, affiliated with Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd.

"Exports, a main contributor to the surplus, are expected to continue expanding at least for the rest of the year," Ono said. "And we cannot expect a clear recovery in imports as the domestic economy still lacks strength."

"Brisk exports to Asia are the main factor of the current surplus gain. We forecast the nation's surplus will keep growing for the time being," said Hideki Matsumura, an analyst at Japan Research Institute.

Analysts predict the June figures would show another boost due to the inflow of travelers to the country for the 2002 World Cup football finals co-hosted by South Korea and Japan.

In May, Japan suffered a deficit of 407.7 billion yen in services, with the balance in the travel sector coming to a deficit of 240.4 billion yen, still affected by the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

But the surplus may slow down early next year as a result of the yen's recent gain against the dollar and growing concern about the future of the United States—a major destination of Japanese goods.

"The yen's appreciation is likely to brake the surplus, and the impact is expected to appear early next year," Daiwa's Ono said.

On Friday, the yen climbed to a 10-month high against the dollar, despite the threat of intervention by Japanese authorities that is providing support in the short term, dealers said. **AFP**

Singapore panel proposes changes in pension scheme

SINGAPORE—A Singapore government-led panel proposed on Monday that the state pension scheme impose widely anticipated caps on housing loan withdrawals and channel more funds toward retirement investments.

The panel, reflecting worries that Singaporeans spend too much on housing and do not save enough for old age, said in a statement it recommended Central Provident Fund (CPF) withdrawals be limited to 150 percent of the value of the property this year.

The limit, which would not apply to those who buy public housing, should be brought down to 120 percent over five years, it said in a statement.

Under current rules, home buyers can withdraw many times more than the value of the property to pay for both the principal and interest.

"The aim is not to discourage investment in property. We are quite clear about that," Tharman Shanmugaratnam, senior minister of state for education and trade and industry, told a news conference.

"But we have to refine the rules so as to avoid excess, not to deter the use of CPF for housing."

The tiny city state, wrestling with rising unemployment as it recovers from its worst recession since 1964, is reviewing its mandatory pensions scheme and retooling other segments of the export-driven economy to raise competitiveness.

Analysts said the new CPF rules, which caused some uncertainty in the property market for the past several months, would have no impact in the short term as they did not apply to existing loans.

Reuters

Coca-Cola to count stock options as compensation

AMID a wave of corporate accounting scandals, US soft drink giant Coca-Cola said Sunday that it would begin counting as compensation stock options granted to employees, meeting a key demand by those calling for reform.

Beginning in October, the fair-market value of stock options handed out to company executives and other employees will be tallied as part of their compensation, the company said in a statement. Expected cost of the change would be about one cent per share, the company said.

Unlike salaries and benefits such as health insurance, companies usually do not count as expenses stock options given to employees.

"Management has concluded that stock options are a form of employee compensation expense and therefore it is appropriate that these costs be reflected in our financial results. I am pleased that our company's board of directors agrees," Coca-Cola chief executive Doug Daft said.

"Our management's determination to change to the preferred method of accounting for employee stock options ensures that our earnings will more clearly reflect economic reality when all compensation costs are recorded in the financial statements."

The decision by the Atlanta, Georgia-based company, which ranks 99th on the Fortune 500 list of top US companies, is likely to give a boost to reformers amid controversies over corporate corruption that have shattered investor confidence in Wall Street and put the administration of President George W. Bush, a former oil executive, on the defensive. **AFP**

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Investments push China GDP up 7.8% in H1

A CHINESE tourist from Yunnan province, southwestern China, smokes an aluminum smoking pipe at a shopping district in Beijing, China. Beijing is a major destination for many Chinese from other provinces and the authorities have poured millions of dollars into improving tourist attractions for both foreign and domestic visitors. AP

BEIJING—China's economy grew 7.8 percent in the first half of 2002 compared with a year earlier, well ahead of the government's 7-percent target for the full year, the State Statistical Bureau said on Monday.

The crackling growth, spurred by strong jumps in exports and foreign direct investment, put China well on track to meet a growth target the leadership deems crucial to absorbing growing ranks of unemployed as the state sector is overhauled.

Gross domestic product, or GDP, in Asia's star performer was 4.55 trillion yuan ($549.8 billion) in the January to June period, the bureau said. First-half growth was broadly in line with analyst expectations of a rise of at least 7.5 percent.

The bureau said the economy grew 8 percent in the second quarter, picking up from 7.6 percent in the first quarter and a relatively sluggish 6.8 percent in the final quarter of last year.

"Many indicators were better than forecast and the overall national economy performed quite well," said Qiu Xiaohua, deputy director of the State Statistical Bureau.

"Just like the trend of hot weather outside, the Chinese economy is picking up now and is quite hot," Qiu told a news conference, referring to a heat wave that has gripped Beijing in the last week.

A stellar rise of 21.5 percent on the year to 1.446 trillion yuan in the first half in fixed asset investment, a key tool for the government to stimulate the economy and help achieve overall growth targets, also underscored China's solid economic position.

Consumption also held up, with retail sales growing 8.6 percent on the year in the first six months to 1.945 trillion yuan, according to the statement.

Deflationary pressures continued to make themselves felt though, with the benchmark consumer price index down 0.8 percent on the year from January to June.

Last week, China released figures showing exports had grown 14.2 percent on the year in the first six months of 2002 and that foreign direct investment had shot up 18.7 percent.

China's bullish export sector has worried some other Asian nations who fear China may be grabbing more than its fair share of the regional export pie.

But China's strong import growth—up 8.05 percent to $22.96 billion in June and 10.3 percent in the first half to $128.52 billion—was evidence that others in the area were benefiting from the Chinese boom, analysts said.

The figures showed exports held steady in double-digit territory over the past few months after a rocky start coming off last year, when exports limped ahead at just 6.8 percent.

China's cheap workforce, growing economy and stable political landscape have made it a favored destination for foreign funds.

Communist-ruled China draws more direct investment than any other developing nation and looked set to hold on to that claim as contracted FDI, an indicator of future trends, soared 31.5 percent to a shade under $44 billion in the first half.

Growth for all of 2001 was 7.3 percent. *Reuters*

Thai finance minister leads business delegation to China

BANGKOK—Thai Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak is leading a high-powered business delegation to China this week to boost the kingdom's trade, investment and tourism industries, officials said Monday.

Somkid left for China Sunday with the 100-strong entourage which includes several other ministers and representatives from the public and private sectors, commerce ministry officials said.

Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit, Deputy Commerce Minister Suvarn Valaisathien and Somsak Thepsuthin, minister attached to the premier's office who oversees the Tourism Authority of Thailand, joined the tour.

The finance ministry said "Team Thailand" would focus on negotiations regarding Thai exports of rice and rubber to China. Thailand is the world's biggest rice exporter. *AFP*

HK bankruptcies hit record high

HONG KONG—Bankruptcies in Hong Kong hit a record high of over 10,000 in the first half of this year, more than doubling the total for the whole of last year, government figures showed Monday.

A total of 10,173 personal and corporate bankruptcies were filed in the first six months of the year, surpassing a record 9,151 cases for the whole of 2001.

Before the Asian financial crisis began to take a toll in late 1997 and 1998, it was typical to see a few hundred cases each year.

The five years since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule have seen its once sizzling economy turn sour with unemployment at a record 7.4 percent and economic growth shrinking to just 0.9 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier.

Hong Kong's economy grew only 0.1 percent last year amid the global slowdown after jumping 10.5 percent in 2000. *AFP*

Pfizer to buy firm for $60B

WASHINGTON—Drugmaker Pfizer Inc. has agreed to buy rival Pharmacia Corp. for $60 billion, the Wall Street Journal reported Monday, in what will be the biggest corporate merger in more than a year.

The marriage gives Pfizer—already the world's biggest drug company—full rights to one of the pharmaceutical industry's most prized products: the popular arthritis drug Celebrex.

The deal, expected to be announced later Monday, would create an industry behemoth with over $48 billion in revenue and a research and development budget of more than $7 billion.

The new company would be the world's largest drug maker by far and the leading pharmaceutical company by revenue in every major market around the globe, according to the daily.

Under terms of the deal, Pharmacia will proceed with its previously announced plans to spin off its remaining 84 percent ownership of Monsanto Company to its current shareholders, the Journal reported.

After the spinoff, Pharmacia shareholders will receive 1.4 shares of Pfizer stock for each share of Pharmacia, valuing Pharmacia stock at $45.08 per share, representing a 36-percent premium over Pharmacia's Friday closing price.

Pfizer is one of the biggest drug makers with products like Viagra, Lipitor, Zoloft and Peapack.

New Jersey-based Pharmacia's major prescription drug is the blockbuster arthritis medication Celebrex.

Neither Pfizer nor Pharmacia could be reached for comment. *AFP, AP*

Disney plans first Asian radio channel

HONG KONG—US entertainment firm Walt Disney International plans to launch its first Asian radio channel in Hong Kong to boost brand awareness ahead of opening a theme park in the territory, it was reported Monday.

Jon Niermann, Disney's Asia-Pacific chief, told the South China Morning Post that discussions were underway with local radio stations to create a Radio Disney franchise ahead of the park's 2005 opening.

The company is working to secure a deal with one of Hong Kong's two commercial stations—Metro Broadcast and Commercial Radio.

If the deal goes through, the round-the-clock radio channel would be Disney's fourth, partnering transmissions in the United States, Latin America and Britain, the report said. *AFP*

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(As of June 18, 2002)

ASSETS		AMOUNT
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	P	833,045,787
Due from Other Banks		1,882,625,221
Trading Account Securities – net		2,587,665,303
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments – net		751,238,842
Loans, Discounts & Advances – net		1,291,729,749
Equity Investments		5,000,100
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment – net		33,945,455
Real and Other Properties Owned/Acquired		25,126,400
Other Assets		110,462,072
TOTAL ASSETS	P	7,520,838,929
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	1,823,799,883
Time Deposits		2,423,522,790
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		683,977
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		3,265,630
Bills Payable		421,286,823
Other Liabilities		233,179,752
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	4,905,738,855
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	1,850,000,000
Capital Stock Deposit		315,000,000
Surplus		447,114,811
Other Capital Accounts		2,985,263
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	2,615,100,074
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	7,520,838,929
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	P	5,383,439,206
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		5,529,964,738
Items Held for Safekeeping/Collaterals		4,318,353,500
Items Held in Trust		161,598,473
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	15,393,355,917

OTHER INFORMATION*
Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	6.1433%	2.4885%

Amount of Non-Performing Loans	P	-
Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		0.0%
Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	P	66,696,000
General provision for loan losses	P	30,656,536
Specific provision for loan losses	P	39,583,173
Return on Equity (ROE)		5.27%
Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	P	44,808,264
Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		1.29%
Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	P	-
Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		-

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to all Banks dated November 29, 1999.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colin F. Bamford	Chairman
Vicente B. Castillo	Director/President/CEO
Jose Manuel Arrojo	Director
Liberato S. de Jesus	Director
Regina L. Davila	Director
Antonio Garcia del Riego	Director
Francisco Lera	Director
Derek J. Gibson	Director/Controller
Pedro E. Roxas	Director
Regis V. Puno	Director
Atty. Rosella P. Mapa	Corporate Secretary

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)S.S

We, Vicente B. Castillo and Agnes B. Santos of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

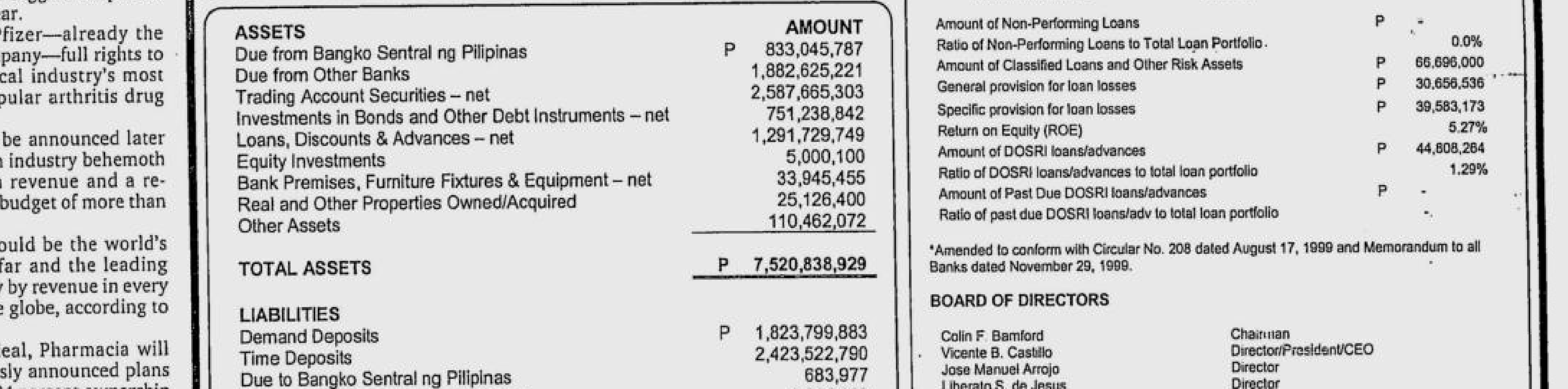
(Sgd.) AGNES B. SANTOS
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICENTE B. CASTILLO
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of July 2002 affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 11973021, issued at Makati City on April 5, 2002 and Resident Certificate No. 09751601 issued at Pasig City on January 7, 2002.

(Sgd) Oscar T. Zaldivar
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No 6744215
Date Issued : January 10, 2002
Makati City
TIN 121-493-459

Doc. No. 482
Book No. XII
Page No. 98
Series of 2002



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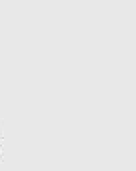

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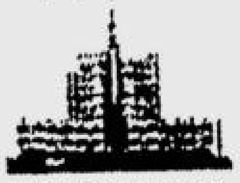

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of BROOKE'S POINT FISHERIES, INC. with office address at Unit 6 Mezzanine, Prince Tower, Tordesillas, Salcedo Village, Makati City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended, as New Export Producer of Processed Marine Products (crabmeat) at a capacity of 151,351 lbs. per year with plant site at San Jose, Puerto Princesa, Palawan has been officially accepted on July 2, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 2nd day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI -- July 16, 2002)

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Suds Show

Q. Why is a radio or TV drama that's presented daily in a series of melodramatic and sentimental episodes called a 'soap opera?'

A. Because 'soap' operas were once primarily sponsored by soap companies. They began in Chicago about 1930 as economical time fillers on radio with such shows as *Betty and Bob* and *The Romance of Helen Trent*. Considered the first television soap opera was *Faraway Hill*, which first hit air in New York City in 1946.

Name Game. Procter & Gamble. The well-known manufacturer of detergents and allied products is named after its founders, William Procter and James Gamble, who first made candles and soap in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1837. (In fact, the first professional soap makers were usually the same people who made candles, since both processes involved the rendering of fats and oil.) Procter was the candle maker, and English in origin; Gamble made soap, and was Irish.

Past Forward. This day in 1945: At 5:45 A.M., the world's first atomic bomb was exploded at a test site in the Alamogordo Desert, New Mexico. Immediately after the blast, physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Manhattan Project (code name of the top-secret US atomic bomb development program), quoted the Hindu god Vishnu from the epic poem *Bhagavad Gita:* "I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds." Twenty-one days later, an atomic bomb obliterated the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

WORD WATCH

Bumbilya : from the Spanish *bombilla*, 'light bulb.'

PDI -- July 16, 2002

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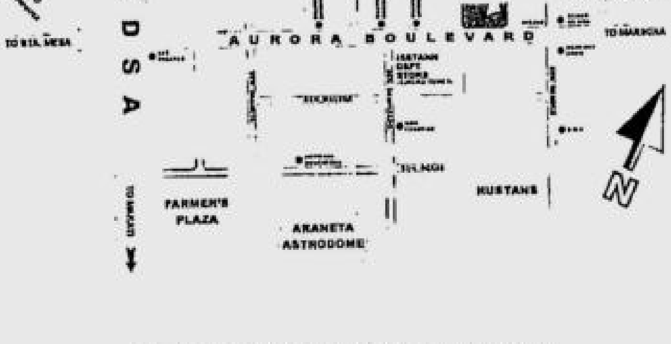

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of the late

AMBASSADOR ALEJANDRO P. MELCHOR, JR.

(Soldier, Diplomat, Scholar, Technocrat, Filipino Patriot and Nationalist)

May 1, 1930 - July 12, 2002

who died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 72 on July 12, 2002.

His wife **Charito** (†); bereaved children **Alejandro 'Buds' III** and **Lynette**, **Mike** and **Giselle**, **John** and **Cecille** and **Beth**; and relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Hall of Flags, St. Ignatius Church at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Necrological Mass and rites will be held at the St. Ignatius Church, Camp Aguinaldo at 9:00 AM, July 16, 2002.

Interment will follow at the Libingan ng mg Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 10:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent instead to St. Joseph Church and Livelihood Center at San Jose, Baras, Rizal.

LIGAYA CARPIO-MANABAT

Died peacefully on July 5, 2002
at Chula Vista, California

She is survived by her husband **Efren**; children **Rodolfo (Bong) & Marie**, **Luchie & Albert Diwa**, **Ditas**, **Zeny & Rodel Fernando**; grandchildren; sister **Amparo**; sisters-in-law **Cresencia & Enriqueta**; nephews and nieces. Please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body will be flown to Manila on July 17, 2002 and will lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel.

Interment will be on Friday, July 19, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

ANITA "SIS. ANNIE" M. OCHOA

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 14, 2002 at the age of 86.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel H of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc.

Cremation will be on July 20, 2002, 12:00 nn at Loyola Crematorium.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

AMANDO JAVIER BUENVIAJE

February 6, 1919 - July 13, 2002

Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 83.

His wife **Priscila L. Buenviaje**; children **Carmencita** and **Tiny Sarrosa**, **Amando Jr.** (†), **Tony** and **Baby**, **Albert** and **Lorna**; grandchildren **Heidi** and **Dex**, **Abby**, **John**, **Maritess**, **Arlene**, **Meggy**, **Kathy**, **Jo-Ann**, **Mimi**, **Chloe**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel A-1 (Annex), Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 17, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

ALFREDO C. CORONADO

*Peacefully joined our Creator and his wife **Pacita** on July 14, 2002 at the age of 82.*

We, his children **Art & Rose**, **Evelyn** (†), **Chit**, **Jojo**, **Bobby & Soc**, **Telly**, **Norman & Renelyn**, as well as his grandchildren **Dino**, **Lia**, **Miguel**, **Paula**, **Paz**, **Rhet**, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 20, 2002 at the San Pedro Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

ENGR. FELICIANO "FELI" E. CABRERA

of Quezon City and Los Baños, Laguna

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 13, 2002.

His wife **ARACELI**; children and children-in-law **NONIA & Vit Ramirez**, **GLECY & Roger Estrella**, **ENNIE & Nick Paner**, **CECIL** and **Kell Cabrera**, **VINCE & Babette Cabrera**, **VIC & Yumi Cabrera**, **CONNIE & Rene Tamondong**, **LAMBERT & Irene Cabrera**; grandchildren **DAHLIA & Bernard Argamosa**, **VIVIENNE & TRICIA Ramirez**, **OJEE & BRIAN Estrella**, **RUBY JEAN & SARAH Paner**, **EDCEL BYRON & CATHERINE KEI Cabrera**, **VAN GIRARD**, **KEVIN & KEITH Cabrera**, **REANNA MAE & KAYLA SELENA Cabrera**, **JEAN MARIE Tamondong**, **MICHELLE** (†) & **MARIAN Cabrera**; great-grandchild **MIGUEL Argamosa**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Arlington Funeral Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 21, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

MARINO B. LIRIO

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 14, 2002 at the age of 66.

His loving wife **Carmen Rodriguez** (†); children **Rolando**, **Raymond** & **Richard**, brothers & sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on July 18, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church.

REYNALDO "DODENG" V. PAPA

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 14, 2002 at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife **Naty**; children **Rey Jr. & Tita**, **Elmie**, **Lina**, **Butch & Myra**, **Tuts & Luz**, **Ross & Lydia**, **Bess & Tony**, **Carmen & Rafael**, **Dick & Faith**, **Meg & Dominic**; brother **Rodolfo** and sister **Mely**, relatives and friends requests the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Santuario De San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on July 18, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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"My soul finds rest to God alone;
from Him comes my salvation."

Psalms 62:2

FRANCISCO "Bitot" ZAMORA II

1943 - 2002

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite
Grace and Goodness of the Lord
on July 15, 2002 at the age of 58.

His brother **Raul** and sister **Charie**; sister-in-law **Marem**; nephews **Raulito & Gary Mackay**; nieces **Mieke** and **Nicki**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel at Magallanes, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 17, 2002, 3:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

"I do believe there is life after – there is a spirit after, and above all there is LOVE even and this is the secret on how you can conquer life, illness and death: TO BE FOREVER in LOVE because this is what makes you feel both human and divine, it is an altered existence."

- Liddy, February 2002

LIDWINA "Liddy" ABES y LOS BAÑOS

July 13, 2002

Her everlasting love and husband **GENEROSO T. ABES**; and her beautiful and wonderful sons **FRANCO & GABRIEL**; brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends celebrate her birth to eternal life to see our Redeemer and enjoy the vision of God forever.

Her remains lie in state at St. Jerome Church, Ayala Alabang Village.

A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on July 16, 2002, 3:00 p.m. at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

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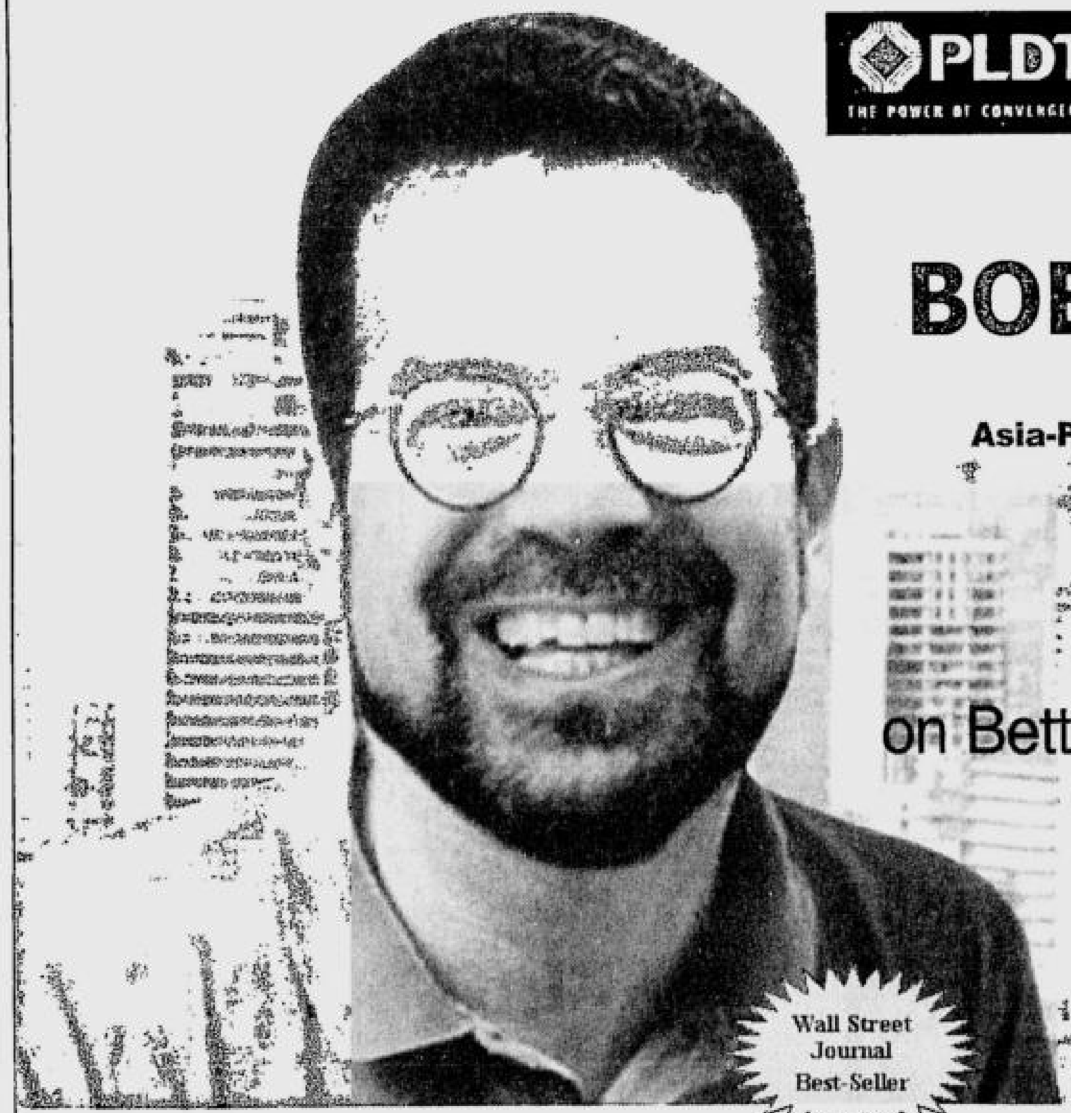

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ABOUT BOB:
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, *Working Wounded: Advice That Adds Insight to Injury* (Warner Books 1998), *The Boss' Survival Guide* (McGraw Hill 2001); **SYNDICATED COLUMNIST,** San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle, New York Daily News, Los Angeles Times, and 100 other newspapers, including the Philippine Daily Inquirer; **TRAINOR/SPEAKER** to corporations and associations in the US and other countries; **CREATOR,** award-winning web site, Forbes' Best of the Web 2000, www.workingwounded.com; **CONSULTANT,** Fortune 500 companies

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REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Buying real property at a profit

By Tessa R. Salazar

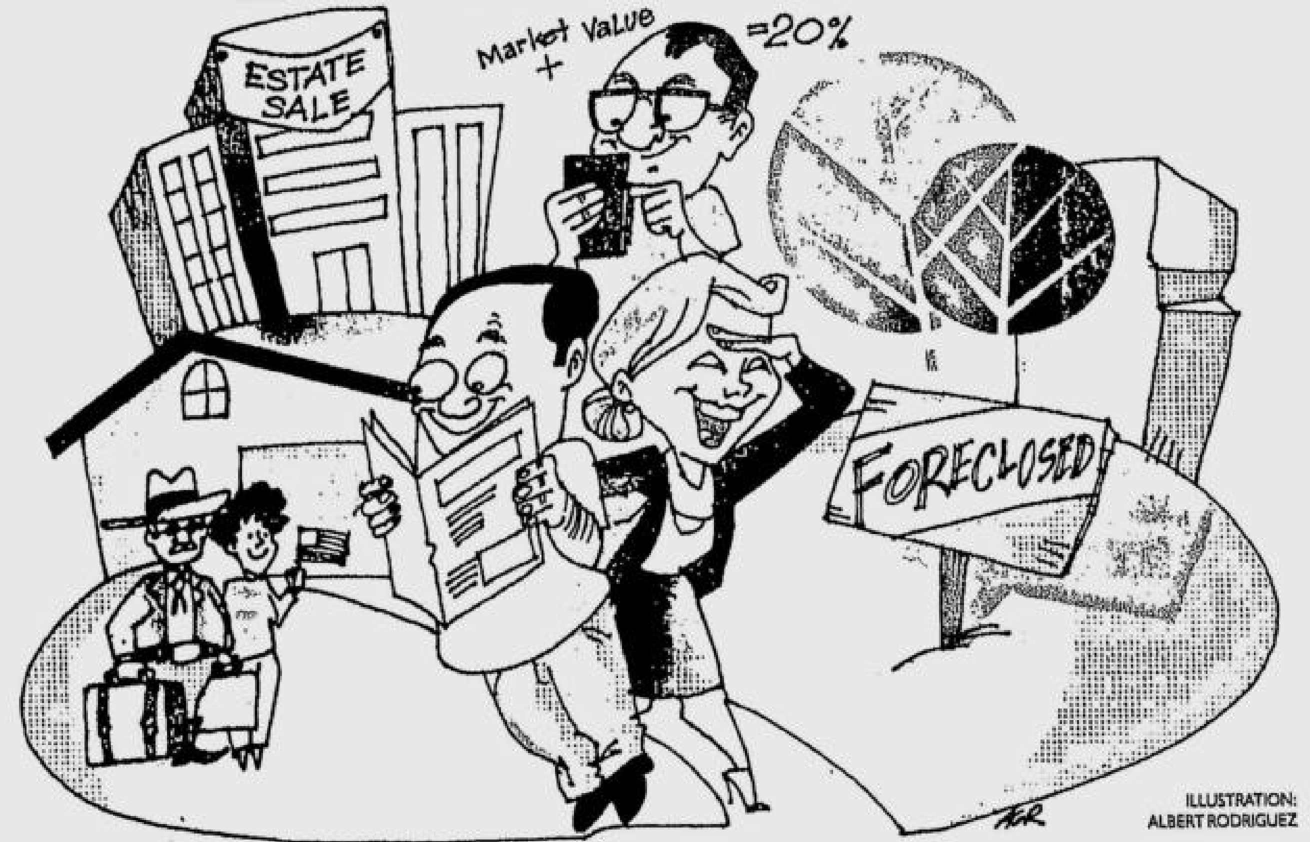

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

YOU realize you have what it takes to become a real estate investor. After all, you have the resources, you are a risk taker and you are armed with the knowledge and inside information of the property.

You also realize that putting your money in real estate would protect its purchasing power against the "erosion of inflation." Expert real estate investors, however, have one word of caution: do not invest your money unless you are sure that you want it to be tied up on a long-term basis, say just less than five years. This is because your gains, if there would be any, would be eaten up by taxes and other related costs of liquidating your investments.

So what factors would move investment opportunities right to your doorstep?

Property valuation

Engineer Enrico S. Cruz, president of Urban Institute of Real Estate, says that whether you decide to invest in raw lands or rental properties or you choose to simply remain as a lender or a financier, you should learn the major factor that will drive your investment to heights of success. And that is the correct knowledge on property valuation.

"I have encountered a lot of investors who failed in real estate simply because their acquisition price is more than what it should have been," he says. Because of this, Cruz tells aspiring real estate investors attending his seminars the mechanics of appraising real estate. He is quick to add that if you find property valuation difficult to learn, "it would be safer to have a trusted professional appraiser on your side before you buy or lend."

The factors that spell the difference in the accuracy of one's appraisal is the competence and integrity of the appraiser, soundness of the procedure used in the appraisal and the availability of the pertinent data. Cruz also says the utility, scarcity, demand, supply, ability to pay and adequate value knowledge on the part of the buyer are important factors that create value.

Cruz says his guiding principles in valuation are "anticipation, substitution, change, contribution, diminishing, highest and best, balance, conformity, competition and supply and demand."

Vacant land

Neophyte real estate investors eye vacant lands as cushions to their investment. They think these are less of a headache as they buy it and wait for it to appreciate over a long period of time. Cruz says that over the years of his practice in real estate, a lot of people invest in vacant lands because they believe it is a hedge for their money from the effect of inflation. Too much money is flowing in from their other investments, and the price seems to be too low to resist.

How would you know if you're in for a bargain? A real estate is a bargain if the price is at least 20 percent lower than market value

But Cruz says that vacant land is not for investors who seek maximum return of investment. He reasons that profits from vacant land depend on the appreciation of land over the holding period. He says that "if appreciation is due to inflation, an investor will ultimately receive, after selling the property, more money but whose purchasing value is less because of inflation."

Be speculative

An investor expecting to profit because of a future development in the area, at best, is being speculative. This expectation depends on inside and advance information, which is seldom available at the right time.

So why should one be discouraged from investing in vacant land? Cruz says that vacant land does not produce income while it requires carrying costs such as property taxes. An investor is also not sure of the expected appreciation in market value, meaning there is the danger of a decrease in market value in times of adverse economic and political situations. Other reasons he cites are: the investor always risks expropriation, or the land could be included in harsh zoning regulations.

Speculation does not favor small investors. Small landowners may not have as much inside info on proposed developments of the area as big real estate dealers have.

So if there is much going against investing in vacant land, when do we invest in it, anyway? Investment in vacant land could only be successful if the selling price is "abnormally" below market levels; when the potential investor has the inside info about the future development in the area; or when the investor has plenty of cash and does not have any other investment alternative.

A prospective investor is also warned to resist the temptation of buying beyond his or her price. This also translates to not being in a hurry to buy. Place your money in a time deposit account while waiting for the right property to buy.

Buying at a profit

The key to making money in real estate, according to Cruz, is not in selling at a profit but in buying at a profit. "In real estate, the opportunity of buying at less than market value is always present. As an investor, you do not buy at market value because you are not the end-user."

Cruz likens a real estate investor to a distributor who is entitled to a discount based on the selling price which is actually the profit for distributing the merchandise.

How would you know if you're in for a bargain? A real estate is a bargain if the price is at least 20 percent lower than market value. Cruz explains that market value is the viable price resulting from your investment analysis, not the asking price of the seller. His advice: "When you are looking for bargain properties, there are also competition from other investors and the end users. As an investor, you must be able to buy a property at least 20 percent lower than what end buyers will pay for the property."

One can find bargain properties at a bank's acquired assets, developers who are facing temporary financial problems, neglected properties of absentee owners, migrating couples or families, estate sales, and government foreclosed property sales.

Cruz is willing to share more of the ins and outs of the industry for those seriously planning on embarking on a career in real estate. The Urban Institute can be e-mailed at urbanet@pacific.net.ph for more information. If you think you have what it takes, then just go for it.

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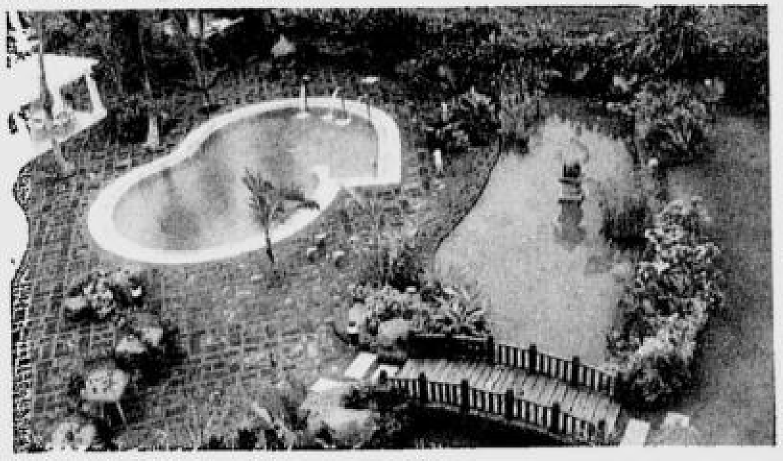
Perfect co-existence of man, nature in Sta. Elena

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

STA. Elena environmental consultant Edgardo de Vera

THE INTERIOR of the Balinese-inspired Sta. Elena clubhouse



AERIAL view of the clubhouse poolside

BUILDING a bird sanctuary amid a world-class residential community and golf course would seem to be a volatile mix. But there's nothing impossible to it once you are determined to achieve such goal. Sta. Elena Properties Inc. did it after 10 years—planting half a million trees—to create an environment that is truly man- and nature-friendly. The transformation was indeed tremendous considering that in 1992 this particular area was just a wide expanse of grassland.

Said Bienvenido Tantoco Jr., Sta. Elena Properties executive vice president and general manager: "Ten years ago, I envisioned this place to be a golf course surrounded by woodlands and where I could live with all the world's modern comforts, and yet, still only an hour's drive away from the city. Finally, we are one step short of realizing that dream."

Careful planning

Tantoco worked closely with premier master planner Palafox Associates, renowned golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr. and architectural firm E.T. Caniza & Associates to transform this Sta. Rosa, Laguna property into what it is today.

One could readily appreciate the fruits of their long and hard work. Standing on the view deck of the five-story tower beside the clubhouse, one could see the astounding wealth of flora that forms a breathtaking backdrop to Sta. Elena's famous 27-hole golf course. It's almost unbelievable that this enclave harbors some 1,400 plant species and over 150 rare species of Philippine forest trees, not to mention the 102 bird species and various butterflies now seen in the area because of the vegetation.

There's nothing superficial about the beauty of Sta. Elena. The structures, water and electrical systems, trees and plants as well as the water bodies were carefully planned and laid out so that one part doesn't hamper the development of the other.

Natural ecosystems

Sta. Elena is in the process of obtaining full certification from the National Audubon Society, a US-based environmental group for the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems with focus on birds and other wildlife. Of the six certifications required, Sta. Elena has already completed three.

"Tremendous attention was given to ensure that future developments will never impede with what is already established," said Edgardo de Vera, Sta. Elena's environmental management consultant who also heads the property's habitat improvement, restoration of wildlife bio-diversity and other environmental programs. "It's a good thing we accomplished the nature aspect first so that families planning to settle here are the ones who will be reminded on what to expect and how they can help preserve the beauty of the place. It's much better than the other way around."

Even the units for the soon-to-rise Sta. Elena Village were carefully selected. The first phase of the village development, called the Banahaw, will comprise of 103 residential lots of single-detached family homes. Lot sizes will range from 580 to 1,100 square meters and at least 58 of these will lie along the fairways of Sta. Elena's 27-hole golf course.

"The beauty of Sta. Elena is that it provides a home for the future residents while building a nature sanctuary for our country's flora and fauna," Tantoco explained. "They'll love it here since birds will be just above their homes and butterflies hovering freely on their gardens—a presence tells you the environment is healthy enough to allow flora and fauna to thrive."

Family getaway

In designing Sta. Elena Village, the planners conceived a place where families can escape to during weekend or holiday. Sta. Elena built a Balinese-inspired clubhouse complete with facilities where families can dine and relax. The clubhouse also features an air-conditioned library and billiard hall. Alongside the clubhouse stands a five-story view tower where one can get a 360-degree view of the whole property.

Residents and their families and guests can also try their hand at fishing in the village's four-hectare lagoon where bass abound. Soon, the village will also add a recreation and sports park which will house a basketball court, a pavilion, a children's playground, a picnic grove and a grass tennis court.

Perfect harmony

Said Tantoco: "No expense was spared in the creation and development of Sta. Elena Village. Everything is world-class. All utilities and auxiliary systems (including stand-by generators) are hidden underground so as not to impede the beauty and serenity of the place. We have even built asphalt-overlaid concrete roads to provide a smoother vehicle ride and the village entrance will soon be accessible only through an electronic entry system."

Indeed, Sta. Elena points the way on how properties should be master-planned and managed. Tantoco hopes that other developments in the area will follow suit. "In a way we are restoring the balance of nature," he said. "Sta. Elena has shown that through a well-managed ecological environment, nature and man can co-exist harmoniously."

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STRONG RESISTANCE CITED

China rethinks trade plan with Asean

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEGOTIATIONS for the creation of a free trade area between China and the Association of Southeast Asian nations have been bogged down by China 's decision to rethink its "early harvest" commitment.

The commitment gives Asean members tariff concessions ahead of the opening of the proposed free trade block by 2010 or 2012.

A government source said China was planning to water down its early harvest commitment to Asean because it anticipated strong resistance from its people who have yet to cope with the impact of its first year of structural adjustments as a member of the World Trade Organization.

The source said it would be difficult for the Chinese government to get backing for its early harvest commitment to give Asean first crack into mainland China before the Asean-China FTA takes effect considering the complaints by aired by its businessmen on the initial effects of China's WTO membership.

The source said China had also asked for more time to consult with its economic managers and industry leaders on the early harvest proposal considering that it has only recently obtained the Asean's definition of this promise.

China added that it has yet to obtain the commitments by Asean members on the proposed FTA.

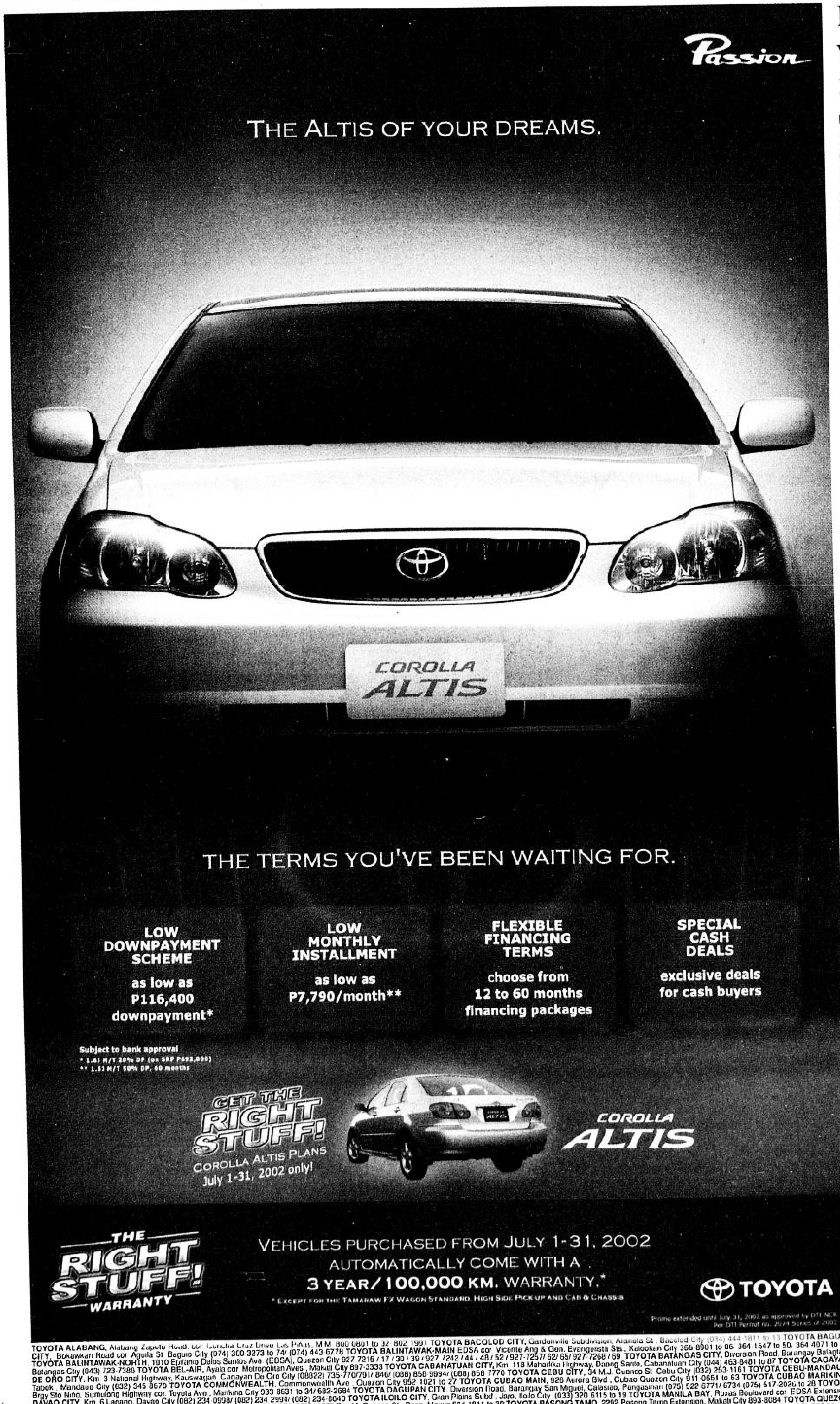
The source said that China noted that it has yet to firm up its rules on determining the origin of its imports and that its custom authorities were still unprepared to handle these transactions.

The early harvest was deemed a downpayment from China to Asean in exchange for the latter's commitment to negotiate and conclude an Asean-China FTA. It was integrated in the negotiations for the Asean-China FTA because Asean tariffs were already much lower than China's.

This issue is one of the key talking points in the formation of a framework agreement for the Asean-China FTA before the end of this year.

Aside from early harvest, Asean and China were at loggerheads on the special and differential treatment by China of the different Asean member-countries. Asean wants this provision to apply to all members and not only to the new members as demanded by China.

Asean leaders and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji endorsed last year the establishment of a free trade area between China and Southeast Asia within the next 10 years during the Asean summit in Brunei.



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Energy secretary withholds $2M in CBK payments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. has ordered state-run National Power Corp. to withhold some $2 million (P100 million) in monthly payments for the rehabilitation of Kalayaaan Unit 1 of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power project until after the project has been audited.

"It's not an investigation. It's a project audit," Perez stressed in an interview last week. "(This) will be the basis of payments."

He explained, "This audit is part of our prudence in making sure that we are reducing all (of Napocor's) financial obligations and not creating undue stranded costs."

He said the audit had not started, but that it should take only a week to finish.

Perez also said the move was part of a program started in May requiring all certificates of completions for projects, waivers on claims and acceleration of payments to be reviewed by a technical working group under Napocor's board of directors.

"(Such decisions) should not be automatically executed by any executive officer," Perez said.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo, who has been on leave since last year, said earlier he was recommending a "full-blown investigation" of the implementation of the $450-million Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydropower project.

Lepanto contests anew Tampakan mining contract

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. is again challenging a $14-billion copper mining contract awarded to Sagittarius Mines Inc.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau said yesterday that Lepanto had elevated its case to the Supreme Court.

The mining firm is also again asking Malacañang to reverse the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' decision giving Sagittarius mining rights over the Tampakan copper-gold mining site in South Cotabato.

In a disclosure it submitted in January, Lepanto argued that the DENR's decision to transfer the Tampakan copper prospect from Australian mining giant WMC Resources International Pty. Ltd. to Sagittarius was not yet final, citing its pending appeal before the Office of the President.

Lepanto said it was denied due process and access to information by the DENR, adding that Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez prematurely acted on an issue that was pending before the regular courts.

Key officials of Tampakan town and the entire association of barangay chairs there, however, have rallied behind Alvarez, following his order transferring the financial and technical assistance agreement from WMC to Sagittarius. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

Clark agency presses 'open skies' over int'l airport

CLARK Development Corp. is pushing for an "open skies" policy at the Clark special economic zone and calling for "an equality of opportunity" that it says will trigger economic growth in central and northern Luzon.

CDC executive vice president Victor Jose Luciano said a liberalized air policy would not stunt the growth of Philippine Airlines Inc., the country's biggest flag carrier.

Luciano, former president of the Korean-run Asiana Airlines, recalled that PAL was able to send more flights to South Korea in 1993 after the Ramos administration added air entitlements to that country.

Tourists coming from South Korea starting that year increased to 260,000 from 26,000, he said.

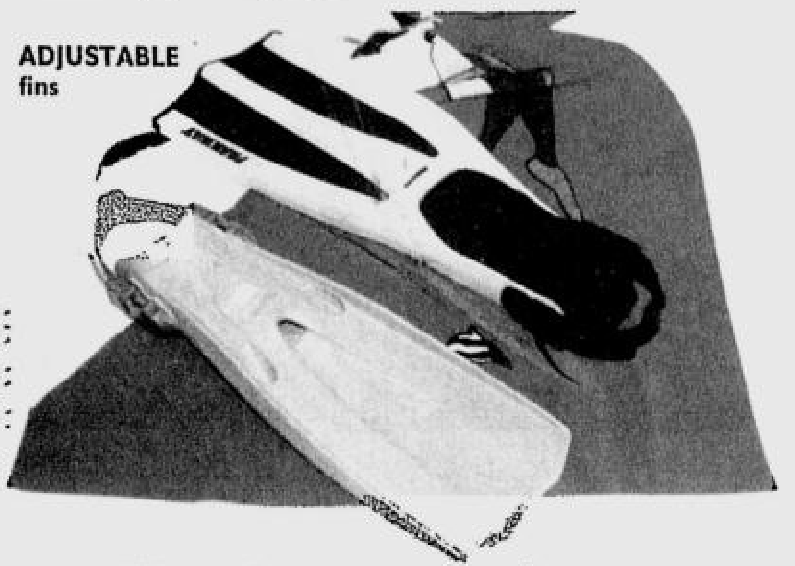
PAL, he added, could again duplicate this gain with an open skies policy. ***Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Fitness



ADJUSTABLE fins

Dive in, the shopping is fine

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Mandy Navasero

DIVE shops are hard to come by, and harder still to find is one that retails top-of-the-line gear and accessories. Driving around town from one location to another in search of that perfect wetsuit is not only time-consuming but physically demanding as well.

For the been-there-done-that diving shoppers, Eureka Dive Inc. (Level R3 Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City) has the latest high-quality gears and accessories for adults and kids.

Eureka Dive Inc. is the only dive shop located inside a mall, and that makes it accessible to many people. Although owner Josephine S. Jimenez is a full-time partner, senior portfolio manager and principal of California-based Montgomery Asset Management, she manages to

DIVE/ p.C6

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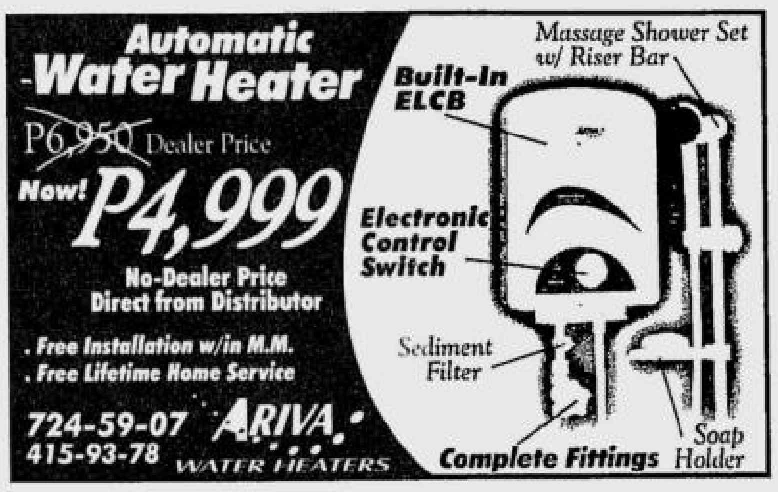

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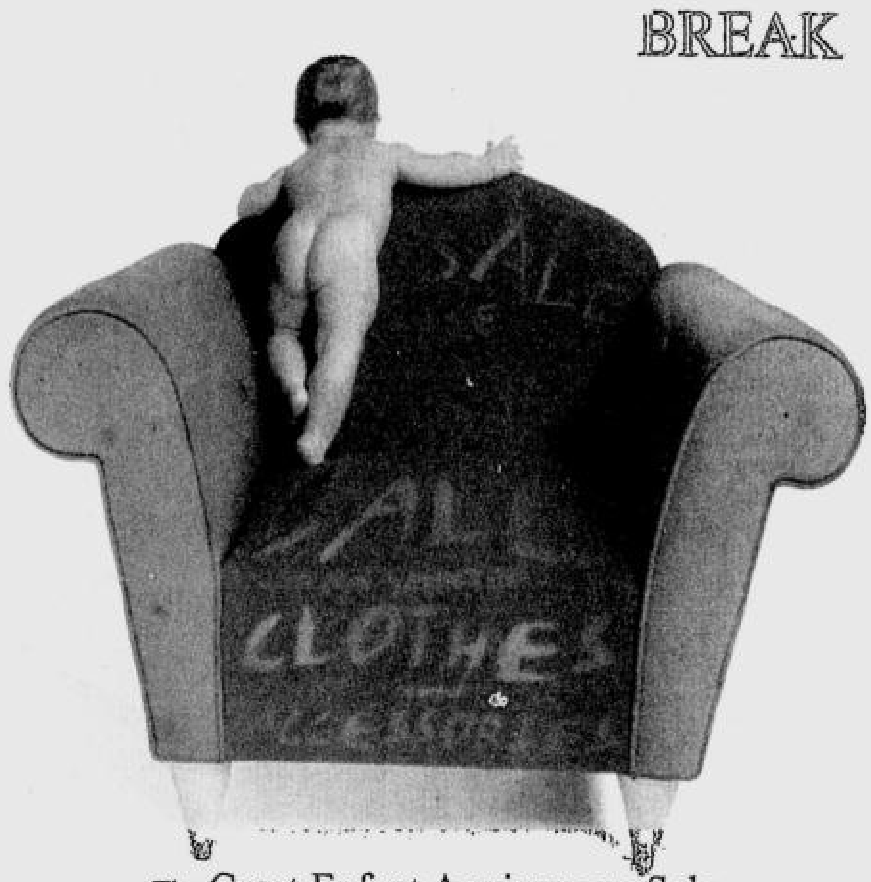

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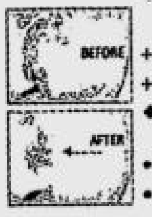

What if everything we do is recorded in space?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

DURING my trip over a month ago to the East Coast in the United States, I had a chance to visit the Association for Research and Enlightenment (ARE), which was established by the late American psychic and prophet, Edgar Cayce, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I stayed for several days in the house of a former student who lived in Poquoson, just 40 minutes away. I was one of the first to start an Edgar Cayce study group in the Philippines and became a member of ARE in 1975 or '76. But I have never been to Virginia Beach until that time.

One of the public lectures I attended at the ARE was on the Akashic Record, delivered by Una Marcotte. It was a subject that had appeared time and again in the Cayce Readings, done while he was in a trance-like state. When the sleeping psychic was asked where he obtained the tremendous information, he replied, "From the person's subconscious mind and from the Akashic Record."

People are familiar with the subconscious mind, but not with the Akashic Record. It comes from the Sanskrit word *akasha*. It is difficult to explain the meaning of this term to the Western-oriented or rational, scientific mind because there is no equivalent English word for it. The nearest word to it is "space," but even this is not accurate. One definition is this: "If you reduce everything else in the universe to its ultimate component, what will be left is the *akasha*." In other words, the *akasha* may be considered the substratum of all matter. Therefore it cannot be seen by the ordinary eyes, nor grasped by the ordinary mind.

Everything that any person has thought of, felt or done is recorded in the *akasha*. Each one of us writes our own Akashic Record at every moment of our lives and stops only after we die. According to Cayce, the Akashic Record exists in the "skein of time and space." And this record may be accessed by a highly developed clairvoyant or medium.

According to the "Dictionary of Mind and Spirit" compiled by Donald Watson, the *akasha* (or space) was "the first of the five natural elements manifested by Brahman, the other four being earth, fire, water and air."

However, the book points out that the Hindu and Buddhist concept of space is different from that of the West. "The *akasha* is not so much empty space as an all-pervading substance embracing the four dimensions of space and time. It also represents the boundary of the phenomenal world. It became associated with the ether in the 19th-century spiritualist literature, the bridge between the material world and the mind, which bore the impression of everything that had ever happened to it."

Isn't it scary to realize that there exists a record of absolutely everything we have ever thought of, felt, or done? And this record is permanent and can be accessed by a highly developed psychic or clairvoyant. In other words, with the existence of the Akashic Record, there is absolutely no way we can hide anything. As Shakespeare said, "Truth will out!"

And that's why highly developed psychics, like Cayce, while in a trance, can "read" any person like a book, given only his name and

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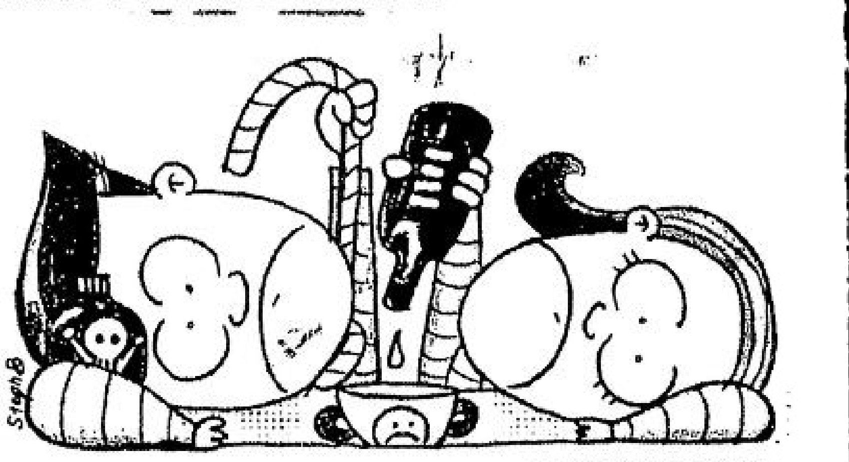


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Depression and addiction: Inseparable partners

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

A PERVASIVE feeling of hopelessness, boredom, lack of enthusiasm, low or loss of sex drive, extreme mood swings, anxiety, low energy level, withdrawal, suicidal thoughts and tendencies, delusions.

If you are experiencing most of these symptoms, chances are, you may be suffering from depression. But, you can do something about it before it's too late.

Depression is an emotional condition that can be classified as:

Situational—normal reactions to external events or conditions that are emotionally disturbing and stressful. This responds to counseling and psychotherapy.

Endogenous—a result of biochemical, hormonal and nutritional deficiency. Medical intervention is often recommended.

Other causes may include: low thyroid, premenstrual syndrome, sensitivity or allergy to foods, pesticides, pharmaceutical drugs, recreational drugs (like Ecstasy) caffeine addiction, menopause.

Studies have shown that depression affects women 2-3 times more often than men. However, the trend seems to reveal that more and more men are increasingly joining the ranks of their female counterparts over the years.

Also, people exposed to stressful conditions both mentally, emotionally and physically make good candidates.

Feel bad, age faster

Anti-aging guru, Deepak Chopra, M.D., in "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind," explains:

Negative factors that accelerate aging—"depression, along with the inability to express emotions, feeling helpless to change oneself and others, and loneliness/the absence of close friends."

Positive factors that retard aging—satisfying long-term relationship or happy marriage, feelings of personal happiness, ability to laugh easily, satisfactory sex life.

Stress and escape

High on the list of stress-factors is emotional disturbance in the form of unhappiness.

Allan Watts, in "The Meaning of Happiness," says that "Unhappiness is not suffering—it is a reaction to suffering." And so it follows that stress is not an illness, it is our reaction to stress that can make one ill.

Depression, when pushed to the extreme, can lead to suicide. Apart from the risk of suicide, depression can seriously impair general health.

"There is a high incidence of drug addiction and alcoholism among the depressed..." (Richard Restak, M.D., "The Brain") "as well as the possibility of suffering from hypertension, ulcers, heart problems and cancer" ("Nutrition Almanac" by Lavon J. Dunne—National Book Store).

As one psychiatrist puts it, addictions exist as forms of escape from the pressures of life. And while addictions give the users a sense of relief, it is only temporary. However, as addictions grow, they create a dependency on the drug or alcohol by the user.

As a precaution, if you have the habit of ending your day with wine or any hard drink, most physicians say that the maximum daily consumption should be two glasses.

To those whose nerves are constantly frayed and need calming, tranquilizers and sleeping pills are not the answer. Go for regular counseling instead and take a cup of herbal tea.

Apart from drugs and alcohol, some depressed individuals develop eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia, the binge-on-food-and-purge-through-vomit syndrome, or simply go craving on foods like sweets, pastries and chocolates.

Mind-body therapies

Meditation—lowers blood pressure and heart/respiratory rates. Meditation classes: Jimmy Licauco's Inner Mind seminars, call 892-6806.

Yoga—exercises that calm the body, mind and spirit. Yoga ideally should be taught by a yogi, or it isn't yoga. Call Mandarin Oriental Hotel (tel. 750-8888) for classes with yogi Prakash Singh Bisht (visiting from Rishikesh, India, and staying for a year), Ravi Singh at Rakendra (843-6142), or Host and Sandy Arando of The Yoga Foundation of the Philippines (515-1268).

Here's a helpful, relaxing affirmation/visualization technique I call Clearing the Cobwebs: Close your eyes. Listen to your slow breathing. Visualize yourself caught inside a spider's web (representing your problems/pain). Now imagine that you have the power to destroy the web and free yourself just by blowing it all away. This act symbolizes your control over yourself and your life. With one blow of air from your mouth, the web disappears, setting you free. Repeat to yourself: "I am in control of myself and my feelings."

Soak bath: In a tub of hot water, add 1 cup of baking soda and 5 drops of rose or peppermint oil. Turn off the lights. Light a white candle and focus on the flame. Relax.

The great pretender

There is a saying, "If you feel that you are posing as yourself, then you have a pathologically split personality" (Sheldon Kopp, Mirror, "Mask & Shadow").

Leading a false life only means that you pretend that no problem exists in your life to cause the depression you do not want to acknowledge. And if you have suffered a nervous breakdown before, chances are, you will again—unless you seek counseling and address the underlying reason for your illness.

If you feel you are headed for a breakdown, find help immediately.

Checklist of hope, song of triumph

- Seek parental/medical or professional help if you are depressed. It is important to have someone to talk to.
- Drugs and alcohol are not options. Neither is violence to yourself. Dulling the senses from pain will not solve your problem. Facing your situation with a sober outlook will.
- Blaming others for your misery or depending on someone else for your sense of identity or your own validation may seem right to you. But it only means you are not responsible for your life and yourself.
- Exercise the power of choice. You can continue to live in your own private hell, or get out and find your own paradise.

There is a song by Brian McKnight that can raise your spirits. Here are the lyrics from that song that I find inspiring.

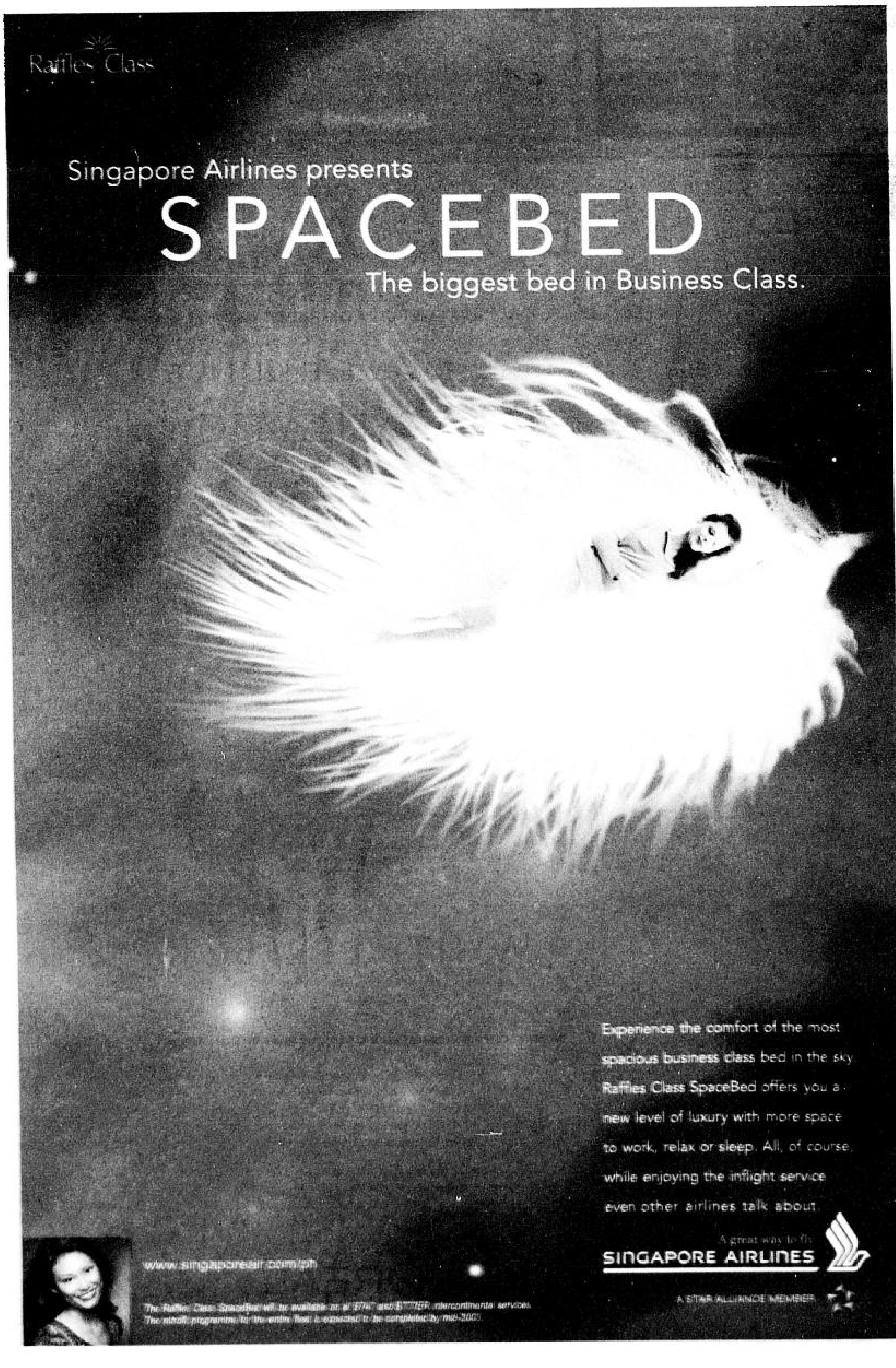
Win

Dark is the night, I can weather the storm
Never say die, I've been down this road before
I'll never quit, I'll never lay down
You see I promised myself I'll never let me down
So I'll never give up, never give in
Never let a ray of doubt slip in
And if I fall, I'll never fail
Just get up and try again
Never lose hope, never lose faith
There's much too much at stake
Upon myself I must depend
I'm gonna win.

Love and light!

Watch "Beauty In and Out" Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. on "Unang Hirit," GMA 7.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fo@yahoo.com



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How much exercise . . .

From page C8

major studies have found that a moderate-intensity exercise that burned 700-1,000 calories a week reduced the risk of getting type 2 diabetes by 31 percent in participants with an average age of 51 years. In the over-60 age group, reduction of risk was 71 percent.

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

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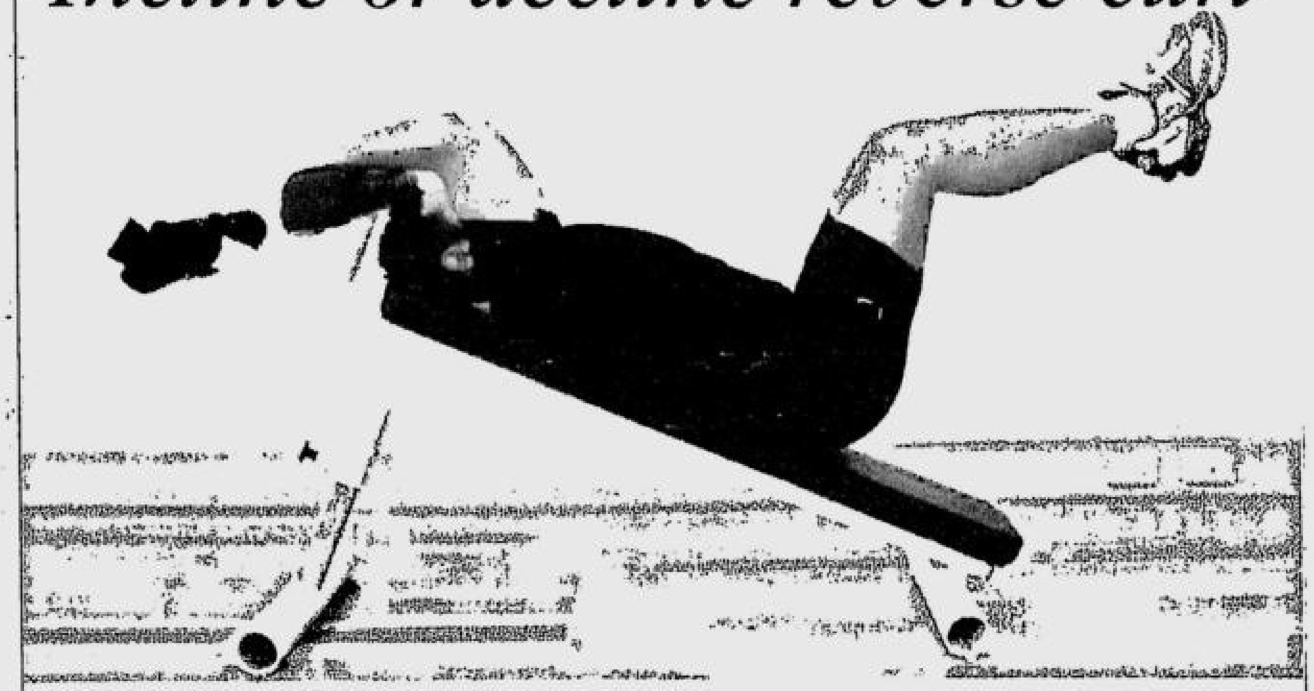
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Incline or decline reverse curl



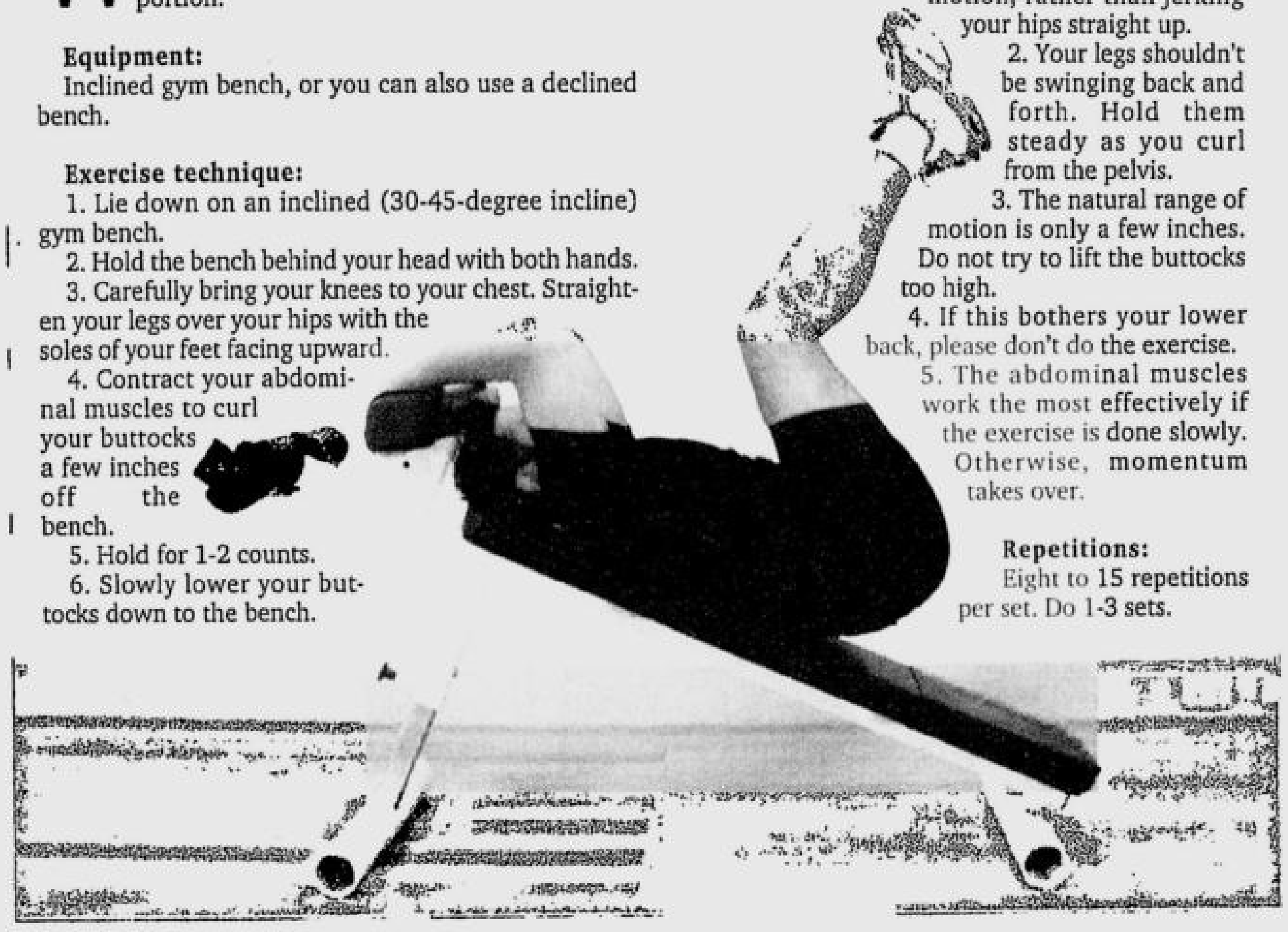
WORKS the straight abdominal muscle (*rectus abdominis*) with slight emphasis on the lower portion.

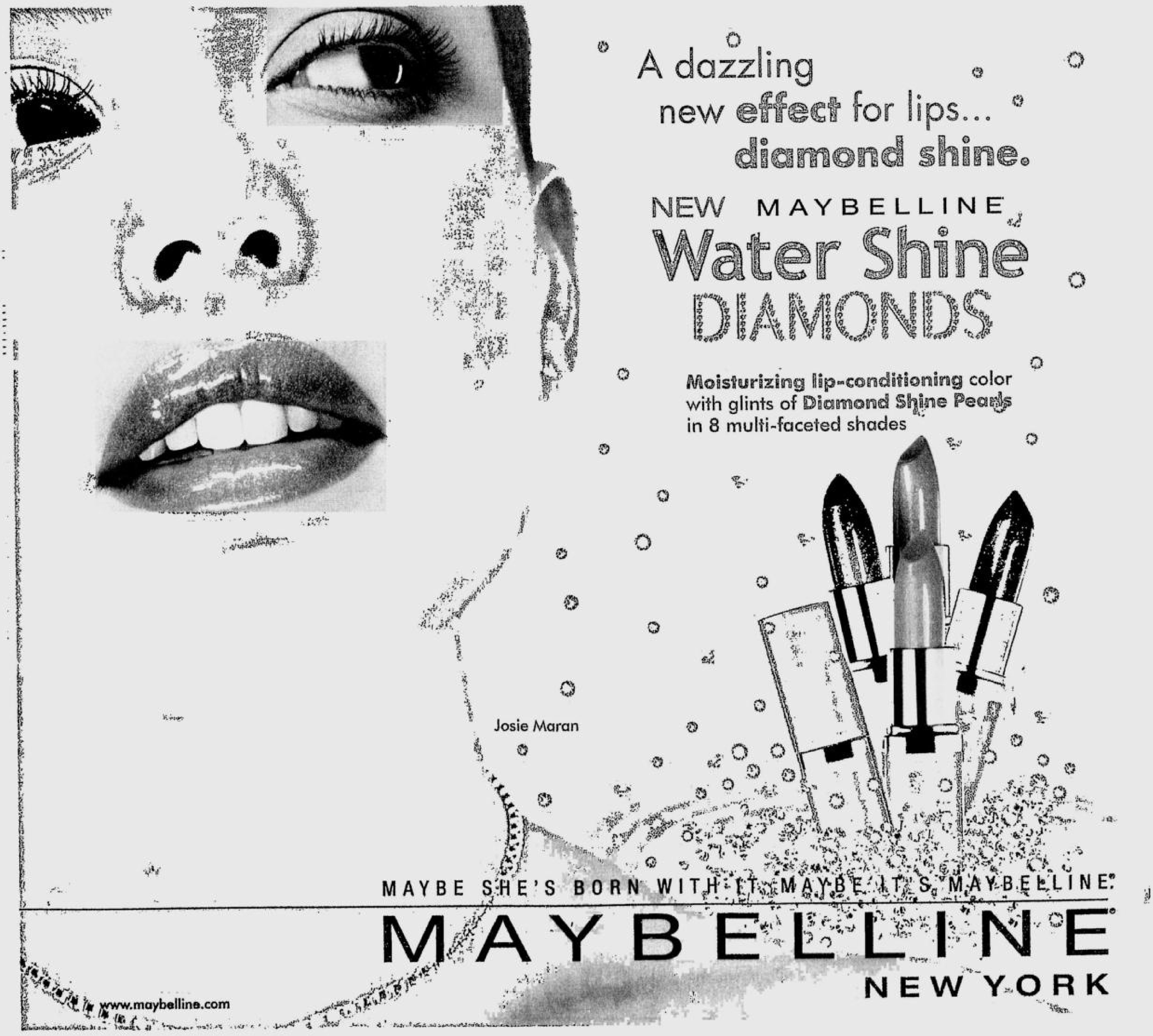
Equipment:
Inclined gym bench, or you can also use a declined bench.

Exercise technique:
1. Lie down on an inclined (30-45-degree incline) gym bench.
2. Hold the bench behind your head with both hands.
3. Carefully bring your knees to your chest. Straighten your legs over your hips with the soles of your feet facing upward.
4. Contract your abdominal muscles to curl your buttocks a few inches off the bench.
5. Hold for 1-2 counts.
6. Slowly lower your buttocks down to the bench.

Performance tips:
1. This should be done in a "curling" or "rolling" motion, rather than jerking your hips straight up.
2. Your legs shouldn't be swinging back and forth. Hold them steady as you curl from the pelvis.
3. The natural range of motion is only a few inches. Do not try to lift the buttocks too high.
4. If this bothers your lower back, please don't do the exercise.
5. The abdominal muscles work the most effectively if the exercise is done slowly. Otherwise, momentum takes over.

Repetitions:
Eight to 15 repetitions per set. Do 1-3 sets.





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A flower child turns into a perfumer

'60s icon Gemma Suzara still wields flower power over a company that specializes in personal-care products

TO PINOYS aged 47 and above, the name Gemma Suzara is synonymous with à gogo dancing, bell-bottoms, RJ and the Riots, Op art, Twiggy—in short, the carefree '60s.

Fast-forward to 2002. Gemma, very much at peace with herself and the world, now heads the Humanist Movement in the Philippines. She is still associated by many with flower power, but this time with a difference.

Suzara is the creative mind and moving force behind The Olfactory, a company that specializes in developing personal care products ranging from hair and bath products to aromatherapy and massage oils, spritzers and hand sanitizers. All are made from natural sources such as flowers, plants and herbs.

More recently, Suzara was responsible for developing a line of bathroom amenities exclusively for the soon-to-open Fraser Place Serviced Apartments. The two-towered residential hotel in the heart of Makati's business district was designed with a tropical Zen ambience.

Longtime dream

Creating scents for clients like Fraser Place fulfills a longtime dream for Suzara. "When I was a child, I would play with *sampaguita*, *ylang-ylang* and other flowers and pretend that I was inventing a new perfume," she says.

The Olfactory is now a family-backed venture with its own production station. The perfumery maintains a chemist and a researcher/developer, both of whom help Suzara in developing her products. Since the opening of her perfumery in 1987, she has been supplying hotels with their bathroom amenities, and other companies with her natural-based products.

Developing a one-of-a-kind fragrance for an entire line of products is a time-consuming exercise. After deciding on the main fragrance foundation for the line, the perfumer incorporates this into individual formulas for the soap, shampoo, gel and lotion. Tests are conducted over at least one month to ensure the stability and compatibility of the formulas.

GEMMA mixes the essential oil into the shampoo mixture

Suzara says the Philippines offers much by way of homegrown, aromatic plants and herbs. For several years now, she has been sending oils from our *sampaguita*, *ylang-ylang* and other flowers to a perfume house in Grasse, France, for research and development. "Unfortunately," she laments, "we do not grow enough of these to make them commercially viable as essential oils."

Strong connection

Creating a line of bathroom amenities and scents for Fraser Place was one of Gemma's most fulfilling challenges. Fraser Place has 150 suites spread over 41 stories. Though it is located in bustling Salcedo Village, Fraser Place maintains a spirit of serenity and privacy.

Residents of Fraser Place can now recharge, refresh and pamper themselves with shampoo conditioner, bath gel, body lotion and soaps carrying the fragrant, natural scent of green tea mingled with the natural freshness of citrus fruit and the subtle sensuality of sandalwood—thanks to a child of the '60s who still believes in flower power.

READY TO WEAR

The official outfitter of the MBA Southern Conference teams, USA Sports, recently added the Basketball Team Gear line to its extensive range of sports apparel. A set of jersey and shorts available in tri-fit cotton, six designs and 12 color combinations, BTG is perfect for collegiate, amateur and pro ball teams that need RTW uniforms. A special 10-percent discount will be given for every minimum purchase of 10 sets. Basketball Team Gear is available at USA Sports boutiques in Ayala Center Cebu, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, Robinsons Iloilo and Bacolod, Gaisano Mall in Davao and Cagayan, Limketkai Center Cagayan and Festival Mall Alabang.

Nutrition Month focuses on children's health

ST. Luke's Dietary Department celebrates Nutrition Month this July with the theme "Pagkain at Paglaki ay Bantayan, Upang ang Wastong Nutrisyon ay Kamtan." The highlight of this year's celebrations is a lay forum that focuses on children's health titled "Let's Talk...Bata, Bata Paano Ka Tumaba?" on July 19, 8 a.m.-12 nn, at the SLMC 2/L Conference Room.

An art contest called "Kids @rt Work" was held July 6 for children ages 6-10. On July 9, a search for children ages 3-5 with good nutritional status, was held in a contest called "Whatta Babe." Meanwhile, children ages 11-13 participated in a cooking contest called "Little Chefs on Parade" on July 13.

Call St. Luke's Dietary Department at 723-0301 local 4709 or 5512.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

When seeking dental healthcare services, can we go to any of the accredited dentists?

You may avail of services from any accredited provider, unless otherwise your program specifically restricts your dental services to a specific dental clinic. However, unlike hospitals, which have a 24-hour emergency room, dental clinics work on clinic hours. **Thus, it is recommended that you contact your preferred dentist to schedule an appointment (refer to list of accredited dentists).**

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard accredited specialist based in Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation Hospital (MCU-FDTMF), **Dr. Edna C. Banta** has been in the practice of her specialization in Obstetrics and Gynecology for more than 12 years now. Doc Edna finished Medicine from MCU and received her residency training for her specialization at the MCU Hospital. She also subspecializes in Gynecologic Oncology with training from UP-PGH. Dr. Banta is affiliated with the Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecologic Society, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines and the Philippine Society of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy. ·You may visit Dr. Edna Banta for your consultation needs at Room 2 of MCU-FDTMF every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 10 in the morning.

Dr. Lulu Joan Calud-Mamaril is MEDICard's "on call" Anesthesiologist based in St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City. Dr. Mamaril has been a MEDICard accredited specialist since 1992. She is a UERM-MMC Medicine graduate and earned her residency training for her specialization at SLMC. Doc Joan is married to MEDICard accredited Ophthalmologist Dr. Albert Mamaril, with whom she has three children. Dr. Mamaril is a member of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists and the Philippine Medical Association. When not treating patients, she spends most of her time taking care of her family and enjoys shopping and singing as her diversion.

Dr. Michael A. Go, Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserved Officer (Captain) is MEDICard's accredited doctor based in Dagupan Doctors-Villaflor Hospital. Doc Mike, as he is commonly addressed by both colleagues and patients has been an accredited MEDICard service provider for more than four years now. Dr. Go is a UERM-MMC Medicine graduate and specializes in Ophthalmology. He is married to Dr. Joyce Go, an OB-Gynecologist with whom he has three children. You may visit Dr. Go for you consultation needs at Dagupan Doctors-Villaflor Hospital in Mayombo District, Dagupan City from Mondays to Fridays, 10 AM to 4:30 in the afternoon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEA RD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840 -2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

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Natural way to pamper the body

THE STORIES our bodies tell have inspired Natural Benefits' new line of toiletries made with herbal extracts. The range is grouped into Red Story, Green Story and Yellow Story, with each scent characterized by their distinct skin-benefiting effects that also relaxes, calms and invigorates respectively.

Some body products from the Red Story are the Echinacea & Meadowfoam Hair and Scalp Mud, the Patchouli & Ylang Ylang Body Mist, the Rosehip Seed Oil & Mimosa Hydrating Lotion, Hibiscus & Honeysuckle Bath Essence, Almond & Mallow Body Wash and Starflower & Manoi Bath and Body Oil.

Green Story gives a fruity edge with the Grapeseed & Avocado Bath & Body Oil, the Bergamot & Lemon Body Mist, Roman Chamomile & Amica Bath Essence; Juniper & Gentian Body Wash; German Chamomile & Evening Primrose Oil Body Cream; Guarana & Eucalyptus (with ground Olive stones) Body Polish; and Green Tea & Witch Hazel Toning Cream.

Yellow Story boasts of skin boosters like the Lemon Balm & Gotu Kola Body Wash, the Aloe Vera & Honey Moisturizing Balm, Lemon Verbena & Vetiver Bath Essence; Neroli & Cardamon Body Mist; and Grapefruit & Lemon grass Bath & Body Oil.

Natural Benefits are available at Marks & Spencer stores in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center in Makati, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc.

US-based health expert to give lecture at PCIM

THE COUNTRY'S foremost expert on alternative and preventive medicine, Dr. Corazon D. Ibarra, will be the guest lecturer of the Philippine College of Integrative Medicine (PCIM) on July 18 at Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City.

Dr. Ibarra will tackle "From the Universe to the Molecules of Man: A Bio Integrative Approach Mechanism," and will give a brief overview of the recent trends and protocol on homeopathy, homotoxicology and chelation in the US and other parts of the world.

Dr. Ibarra, currently a practicing biological medicine physician at the Bio Medical Health Center in Reno, Nevada, is a graduate (DL Hom.) and fellow (EIBH) of the British Institute of Homeopathy and a member of the International Biological Medicine Society and the International Society of Homotoxicology. She is a mentor of the North American Holistic Medical Association in Toronto, Canada.

She recently addressed Harvard University's medical community on "Introduction to Bio Integrative Medicines."

Dr. Ibarra is considered by her peers as the precursor of the formal practice on alternative medicine in the country for her outstanding contribution on the influx of technical expertise and medicines from the US, Germany and Great Britain.

"Many physicians and patients from all over the country are now enjoying the fruits of her vision of providing quality and affordable health care to all Filipinos," says Hero Nito, marketing and corporate development director of the Ibarra Biomed.

Dr. Ibarra took her pre-med degree at the University of Santo Tomas and obtained her doctorate degree from Southwestern University in Cebu City.

What if everything we do . . .

From page C2

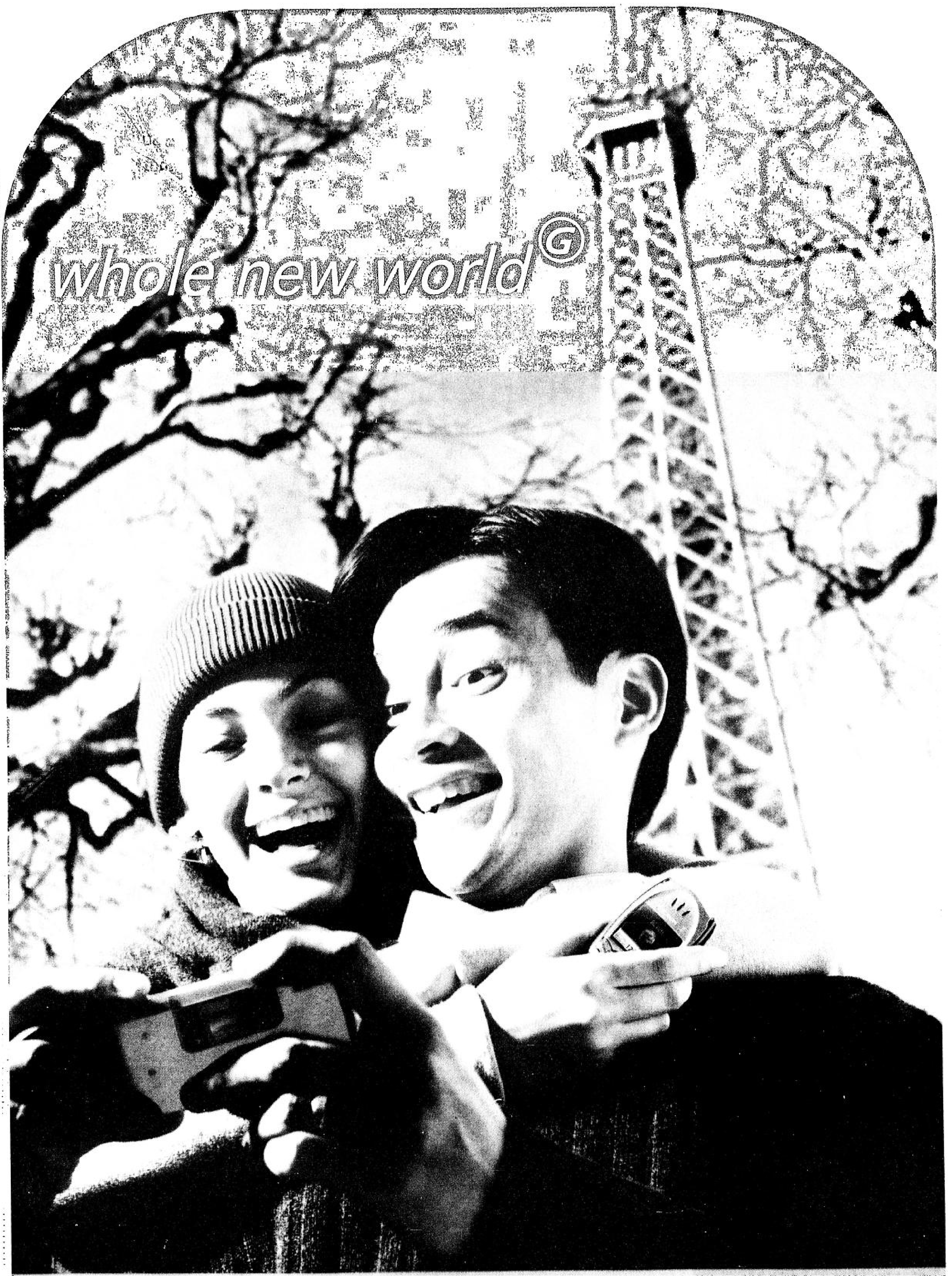
address, no matter how far on earth he is located.

Some of the other interesting things Marcotte said are:

- "All souls were created at the same time." I share this view of creation, although I know it is contrary to our country's main religious belief. According to this dominant religion, God creates each individual soul anew.
- Reason for coming back to earth? "We move faster here on earth than on the other side. We are important to God."
- "We are essentially a soul in a human body, not a body with a soul."
- "The Akashic Record is like a huge computer, but it is out there, in space. Everything is there. Even our shifts in thoughts, beliefs and teachings, are recorded there. It is interactive. Cayce calls the Akashic Record, 'God's book of remembrance.' "
- "You pick up your relationship in this life time exactly where you left off in a past life."
- "Your soul mate always finds a way to make you learn your lesson in this lifetime." And sometimes, such lessons are hard to take.
- "The soul can exist on different levels at the same time." As I always say, "We live in a multidimensional reality."

I was in Poquoson, Virginia for four days. While there, I visited the ARE two times to pick up more books, talk to some people, and get some unlikely items like the Cold Coin, made of carbon steel, which Cayce says prevents colds, decongest nasal cavities and helps normalize mucous secretions. I also bought a package of raw almonds, which Cayce advised people to eat three pieces a day to prevent cancer.

Write to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to dzMM every Sunday, 6-8 p.m



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JOSEPHINE Jimenez

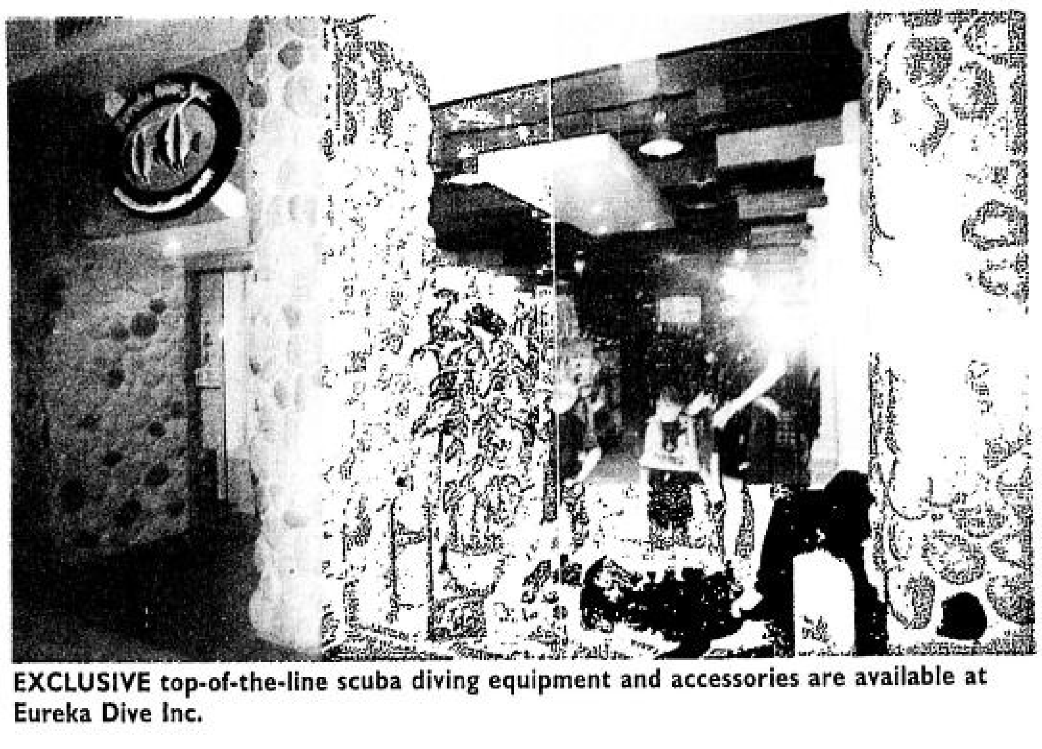
PHOTO frames with diving motif

LIFE vests for kids

Dive in, the shopping is fine

At Eureka, you can gear up for scuba diving and snorkeling with the latest and safest outfits and accessories

PARKWAY Titanium wetsuits



EXCLUSIVE top-of-the-line scuba diving equipment and accessories are available at Eureka Dive Inc.

From page C1

fly in twice a week to check on her business-hobby-passion.

It was 2½ years ago when Jimenez first trained for the sport and began her love affair with the deep blue sea and its creatures. "Scuba diving touched something in my soul and made me more complete as a person," she says.

To diversify her personal investment, she decided to open the shop over a year ago. Nothing out of sheer impulse or pure love of the sport, of course.

This experienced investor, whose name has been listed since 1993 in many Who's Who books (World, West, American Women, American, and Finance and Industry) did her homework before stepping into the world of scuba-equipment retailing. After all, Filipinos are not too hot on scuba diving.

Diving ensembles

One of Jimenez's strategies was to introduce to and exclusively distribute in the Asian market the Parkway scuba gear and accessories. Parkway has been around in the US for more than 40 years. Aside from the cutting-edge design, for which it is known, it's also popular for using high-quality and comfortable material.

To the local diving community, that means titanium-based wetsuits. The fine and smooth lining, made of titanium instead of the usual neoprene, dries easily and provides extra thermal protection.

Parkway wetsuits are available in full-body, shorties and step-in jackets, with kneepads, and comes in 0.5 and 2.5 mm thickness.

"I personally believe Parkway is one of the best in the market," says Jimenez.

Other Parkway products include masks, snorkels, adjustable fins and diving gloves; grabber, high-cut and tropical boots; neoprene socks; titanium regulators; Fog Cutter, and Titanium and Samoa knives with straps; diving hoods; buoyancy compensators (BC) in weight- and nonweight-integrated designs.

Eureka Dive Inc. is also the exclusive distributor of Cetacea and Gull products. Gull is popular for its fins and snorkels, of which there are many to choose from among various colorful designs.

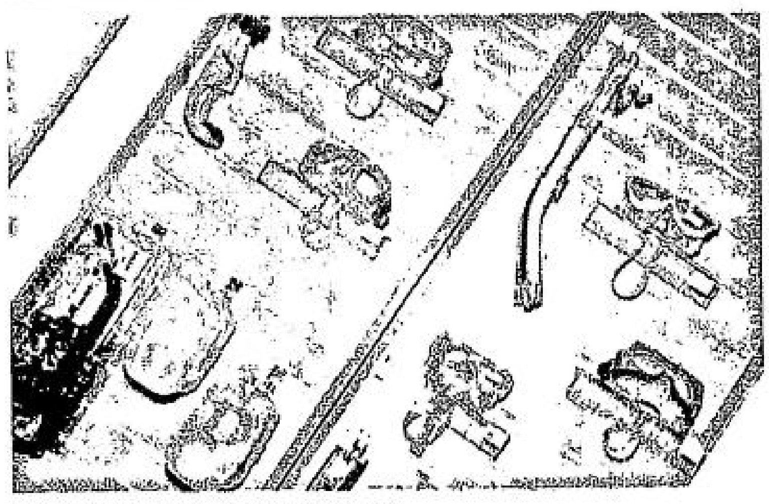
Aside from Gull, the store also sells trendy ladies wet top and pants and children's wet top, full-foot flippers and snorkeling sets by Club Flippers.

Cetacea wetsuits are available in neoprene and rubber for both kids and adults. The brand is recognized worldwide for its diving accessories, Jimenez says.

And do they have a wide selection! From mask cleansers, regulators, BCs and lanyards accessories and blinking marker lights to waterproof boxes, first-aid and Save-a-Dive kits—the list is exhaustive.

Unique collectibles

But that's not all. Sea and Sea MX10 underwater cameras ares also available, as well as US Divers, Aladin and Aeris consuls with compasses, and tank knockers, dive reels, dive-tool sets, flashlights, sand screws, whistles, tank nets, coated lid weights, soft weights, ankle weights, and just about everything divers need.



ADJUSTABLE masks and snorkels

ACCESSORIES

Since product prices range from P100 to the thousands, Jimenez says some customers actually shop for gift items. The store sells unique and cute photo frames especially designed for diving enthusiasts by Lani Singson.

Jimenez says she discovered the items while attending a diving fair in the US, bought some for herself and for her store. Since she found out the frames are made in the country, she has been ordering directly from the makers.

Other gift items include fin key holders, belts with the scuba logo.

Diving school

Aside from gears, accessories and collectibles, Eureka runs a diving school with Padi-licensed instructors. In fact, the school is affiliated with the Rockwell Club to exclusively teach diving to its residents. Nonresidents are, of course, welcome to take up classes.

Academic sessions are held inside a glass-enclosed room within the store, pool sessions at the Rockwell Club pool, and open-water dive, at Anilao, Batangas. Dive trips may also be arranged through Eureka.

With a brilliant mind working quietly on its deep inventory, there's more to discover for the wet world at Eureka.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Nothing but the best in ongoing taekwondo meet

ANGELITO Ong

WITH its long history of sponsoring big names in Philippine sports, Samsung now brings the country's top taekwondo aces to belt it out at the Glorietta Activity Center in the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships on July 15-21.

"Taekwondo is the most popular form of martial arts in the world, and it started in Korea, where Samsung started, too. It's a sport that develops discipline and self-confidence, and it is nice to develop for the younger generation. Lastly, we believe that Filipinos have the potential and the ability to become prominent in this sport. We hope this event opens doors to more taekwondo experts in the Philippines," explained Samsung Philippines president and CEO Sang Youl Eom at a recent press conference.

The competition targets younger taekwondo enthusiasts by conducting three divisions open for children aged 13 years and below, juniors for young men and women from 14-17 years old, and seniors for male and female experts aged 18 years and above.

The competition is also open to all weight categories: finweight, flyweight, bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight, welterweight, middleweight and heavyweight.

True to its name, the Samsung Best of the Best Taekwondo National Championships is bringing in the country's regional champions from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila.

Also tapped to participate in the event are the top bets of the independent taekwondo affiliations, such as the Blackbelt Brotherhood and Sorority and the Philippine Tae Kwon Do Contingent.

BEST OF THE BEST
NATIONAL
TAEKWONDO
CHAMPIONSHIPS
2002

(STANDING) Suzi Abrera; Celso Dayrit; William Ramirez of the Philippine Sports Commission; Sang Youl-Eom, Samsung president and CEO; Robert Aventajado, president, Philippine Taekwondo Association; and Sung Chon Hong, VP, Philippine Taekwondo Association. **(Kneeling)** Angelito Ong, Donald Geisler, Baron Geisler, Raffy Rodriguez, Paolo Abrera and Eugie Rodriguez

The weeklong competition is also highlighted by taekwondo demonstrations participated in by celebrity taekwondo enthusiasts. Monsour del Rosario is conducting special taekwondo clinics, and other celebrities will demonstrate the newest fitness regimen, Taerobics, which combines the martial art with modern-day aerobics.

The Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships is organized by the Philippine Taekwondo Association and IMG, the world's leading name in sports management, with support from Accel Sports Gear, Ayala Center and 103.5 K Lite.

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Like medicine, one needs to take a specific dose of exercise to get a particular response

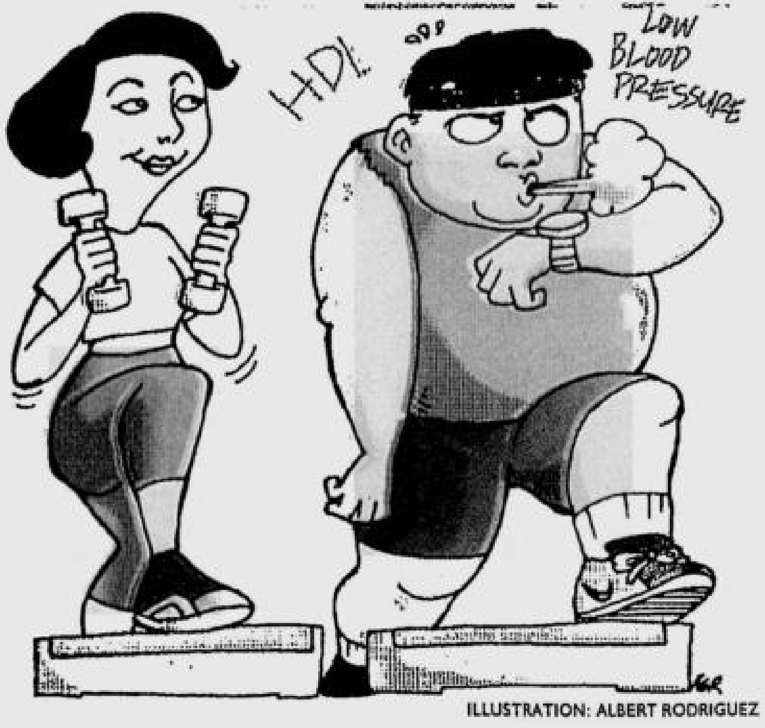

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How much exercise do you need for health benefits?

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

EXERCISE is so effective at preventing and treating certain lifestyle diseases that it is considered by people in the health and fitness professions to be like medicine. And just like medicine, you need to take a specific dose to get a particular response.

This is called the dose-response relationship. In other words, how much exercise you need to do to achieve specific health benefits.

This was the topic of the lecture given by endocrinologist Ralph La Forge at the World Fitness Convention held a few weeks ago in San Diego, California.

I was interested in La Forge's lecture because people usually exhibit two kinds of extreme attitudes about exercise: "More is better" and "Tell me what the bottom line is."

The "more is better" kind of person is the type who will take two tablets even if the instructions say to take only one. When it comes to exercise, they have the same attitude.

The "bottom line" person wants to do only the barest amount of exercise that he or she can get away with.

Both attitudes can get you into trouble. The "more is better" line of thinking can make you waste time and can also cause overuse injuries and a depressed immune system. The "bottom line" outlook can make you miss out on the health benefits of exercise if you don't receive the right information. You may not be doing enough to reap the full value of health-related exercise.

La Forge's lecture also tackled the type of exercise, duration and intensity needed for various health conditions. It was based on a review published in the Medicine & Science in Exercise and Sports Journal. It was a review of many scientific studies using evaluation methods of the National Institute of Health.

The information that La Forge shared is by no means the final word on how much exercise you need, but it is, in a nutshell, the latest that exercise science has to offer.

Aerobic exercise was the type of exercise used in most of the studies. "Aerobic" means walking, running, cycling, swimming, dancing—any continuous activity that rhythmically uses the arms and legs.

This doesn't mean that resistance exercise (weight lifting) or stretching doesn't have any health benefits. It simply means aerobic exercise was the method most studied in this particular scientific review.

Another thing pointed out by La Forge is that when it comes to health benefits, one type of aerobic activity is no better than another. With very few exceptions, it is the number of calories you burn per session, per week and per month that seems to make the difference.

Exercise intensity

Light intensity means you can breathe and talk normally while doing the exercise. An example would be walking around the shopping mall while talking to a friend.

Moderate intensity means you are breathing a little harder than normal but you can still talk in short sentences before you have to catch your breath.

High-intensity or vigorous exercise means you are breathing hard and you can only say a few words at a time before catching your breath.

Health benefits

Health doesn't have anything to do with appearance. Often we think being fit and healthy means having the "perfect" body or losing substantial amounts of weight. The health benefits we are talking about here have to do with internal changes like cholesterol and triglyceride levels, blood-pressure and blood-sugar levels. These benefits can occur even if you don't lose weight.

Cholesterol and triglycerides

An increase in HDL or good cholesterol and a decrease in triglycerides or fat in the bloodstream can be seen in a single-exercise session. These effects last about 36 hours. That's why even if you exercise only three times a week, you see good health results.

Forty-five minutes of moderate- to high-intensity exercise will do the trick in helping raise HDL cholesterol levels.

Blood pressure

A single session of moderate-intensity exercise will lower systolic blood pressure (the higher number in your blood pressure reading) by 18-20 mmHg and diastolic blood pressure (the lower reading) by 7-9 mmHg. These changes remain for 12-16 hours after the exercise.

La Forge says there is no pill that will give you the same effect, but this doesn't mean you should stop taking medication for hypertension since very few people can exercise every 12 hours.

In some cases, exercise and diet alone are enough to keep high-blood pressure under control. In other cases, medication is necessary. Only your doctor can tell you for sure. Exercise has the greatest effect on lowering blood pressure after six months of regular workouts.

La Forge explains there is strong evidence that low-intensity exercise is also beneficial at lowering blood pressure, and exercising at high-intensity levels does not appear to provide additional benefit to blood-pressure reduction.

Blood clotting

Regular exercise has an anti-clotting effect similar to aspirin therapy. Research indicates you don't have to do much exercise to achieve this health benefit; you just have to do it regularly. It could be something as simple as walking at a low intensity for 15 minutes daily.

The wonderful news is that this anti-clotting benefit occurs even if you don't lose weight.

However, La Forge warns that if you are on anti-coagulant medication, this doesn't mean you should throw out your pills and do only exercise.

Check with your doctor because, if your blood is unusually thick, you could be at risk for a heart attack or stroke if you missed even one session of exercise.

Mortality-risk reduction

Studies done on men and women of all ages found that you can reduce your risk of mortality (of all causes) by 30 percent with any kind of exercise (sports, gardening, weight lifting) as long as you burn 1,000 calories a week doing it. As La Forge says, when it comes to this health benefit, your body doesn't care if you are doing "cardio hip-hop" or *ashtanga* yoga.

You will also be happy to know you don't have to lose weight to reap this benefit and you can do many short exercise sessions instead of a long one. So six 10-minute sessions a day can be just as effective as one 60-minute session.

Type 2 diabetes

One of the most significant studies published to date is the Diabetes Prevention Program of the National Institute of Health. This and other

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